**ENTERTAINMENT** / D7
**Pinoy sitcom is dead,** says TV-film director Jose Javier Reyes

**METRO** / A17
**Dengue cases reach** epidemic levels in Valenzuela, say execs

**SPORTS** / A23
**Russia trips US** Cuppers, forges final vs Argentina

**NEWS** / A2
**Charter plebiscite** by January 2007, says De Venecia

**Fraport, Piatco execs face criminal charges**
By Armand N. Nocum

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION has recommended to the Department of Justice the filing of criminal charges against executives of the German-based Fraport AG and Philippine International Air Terminals Co. for allegedly allowing foreign investors to own 81.4 percent of Piatco, which built the multibillion Terminal 3 of

FRAPORT, A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
# INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, September 26, 2006 ★★ Vol. 21 / No. 290 www.inq7.net

**Egg attack won't stop Esperon's return to UP**
By D. Pazzibugan and C. Arevalo

AFP CHIEF OF STAFF Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. (right) is welcomed by Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino (left) and Army chief Lt. Gen. Alexander Yano during his visit to Camp Aguinaldo on Monday. Esperon is returning to the University of the Philippines

EGG ATTACK, A4

# 10,000 cases vs Thaksin

## Thai military rulers may freeze assets of ousted PM

BANGKOK—THAILAND'S TOP graft buster on Monday said the country's military rulers might freeze the assets of ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and members of his Cabinet if evidence were found that they had tried to transfer their wealth abroad.

Seree Chotiphanit, the newly appointed head of a corruption committee, spoke to reporters after the military junta began multipronged investigations into alleged wrongdoing by Thaksin and members of his fallen government.

Thaksin and his group are facing "tons of documents and 10,000 unresolved [corruption] cases," and were given 30 days to report their assets, according to Kraisuang Chunlik, a member of the National Counter Corruption Commission.

A thorough probe and prosecution of the guilty would be almost unprecedented in modern Thailand, where corruption reaches into the highest levels of power and wealth.

Past efforts to seize unlawfully gained assets had petered out or been overruled by subsequent governments.

"If we find evidence that they tried to transfer their assets overseas we will freeze the assets," Seree told reporters.

Earlier, one of Thaksin's lawyers told The Associated Press that Thaksin, now in exile in

10,000 CASES, A4

**SAVING A DOLPHIN**
An employee of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources research center in Dagupan City attends to a weak 10-foot Risso's dolphin (Grampus griseus) which was found in the waters off Hibulin Norzarte in San Fabian, Pangasinan.

## Rebel ma gives up NPA to be with 5 children

By DJ Yap

EVERY TIME SHE GIVE BIRTH, FRANcis found herself making a painful choice between caring for her baby and carrying on the struggle as a cadre of the New People's Army.

Always, she ended up choosing ideology over motherhood. As each of her children was born, she left them in the care of other people.

"A month after I gave birth, my child would be sent to a caretaker—each of them to a different family," she said in Filipino. "I would get to visit them maybe once a week. But they never recalle thought of me as their mother."

"That was just the way it was," said the 31-year-old mother of five.

"When you're inside (the NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines), there's no distinction between men and women. You forget you're a woman; you forget you're a mother," she said.

But after years of fighting in the mountains, Francis finally realized it was time to choose family over principle.

In May 2001, she left the communist movement and surrendered to the government in order to be reunited with her children.

Here was one of the stories told at yesterday's Peace Tech 2, a dialogue among youths on the impact of war and conflict on women.

The forum connected students and teachers at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City with their counterparts at the Notre Dame University in Cotabato City.

It was the third in a series of televon

REBEL MA, A6

## Guimaras wildlife sanctuaries offer hope

**-TEAM** *Report*
Fernando del Mundo
Chief

By Blancha S. Rivera
*(Last of a two-part series)*

THE OLD SONG GOES, "WHEN the swallows come back to Capistrano ..."

At this time of year, migratory birds fleeing the freezing winds of Siberia and northern China wing their way southward in search of warmer climes. Many of them find their way to Guimaras.

As in many other parts of the country, the migratory birds spend the northern winter months in naturwildlife refuge areas similar to what a team of Silliman University scientists found recently in many unspoiled parts of Guimaras.

In a happy case of environmental serendipity, the Silliman study, commissioned by Petron Corp., found "pockets of undisturbed caves and lagoon" in Guimaras, which they recommended be conserved because they are "biodiverse and geologically unique."

The 24-member team was led on a weeklong expedition around Guimaras by Dr. Angel Alcala, former secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and renowned expert on coral reefs.

The study was commissioned

GUIMARAS, A11

**BAGS** of oil debris are loaded on a barge at the wharf in Cabalagnan, one of the Guimaras villages hardest hit by the oil spill.

### *Mangroves to hasten recovery*

ARAB EXPERTS WITH EXPERIence in the largest oil spill cleanup in history have recommended working with natural processes after initial interventions to minimize ecological damage.

The experts, who requested anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters, said that based on their experience with history's largest oil spill after the 1991 Gulf War, the use of chemical dispersants after the first 72 hours "will add no value."

The experts, hired by Petron, said in a report made available to the Inquirer that the cleanup efforts must "focus on the physical removal of the oil" from affected surfaces. "Just remove the sludge, then leave the environment to clean itself," they said.

They said that based on worldwide studies of the long-term effects of oil spills on the environment, "natural recovery might take one to 20 years, but it may be faster for Guimaras because it has lots of mangroves." *See related story in Across the Nation, Page A12.*)

Mangroves are part of the complex ecosystem found in Guimaras, which also includes sea grass beds (where its shallow salt marshes, and extensive coral reefs surrounding the island.

MANGROVES, A11

**DEFENSE** witness Dr. Teresita Sanchez under cross-examination by State Prosecutor Hazel Valdez in this artist's sketch.

## *Defense rests case in Subic rape trial*

By Tarra V. Quismundo, Volt Contreras and TJ Burgonio

THE DEFENSE RESTS.

The lawyers of the four US Marines accused of conspiring to rape a Filipina woman last year closed their presentation of evidence yesterday, with their expert witness returning to the stand for cross-examination.

It had taken the defense counsels of accused Lance Corporals Daniel Smith, Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis and Staff Sgt. Chad Carpenter two weeks to present six witnesses for their side.

In contrast, the prosecution had taken 11 weeks to present 23 witnesses, with the burden of proof on their side.

"As a lawyer, I think there was no rape here based on physical evidence of the case and on the testimony of witnesses. The absence of injuries in [the complainant's] inner thighs and knees is very important and significant in this case considering the conditions and circumstances where the alleged sexual intercourse occurred," said Smith's lawyer, Ricardo Diaz.

Silkwood's counsel, Jose Justiniano, was also confident his client would be acquitted.

"Based on the testimony of

DEFENSE, A6

JDV'S FEARLESS FORECAST

# Charter plebiscite by January 2007

By Michael Lim Ubac and Christine O. Avendaño

IF THE CHARTER CHANGE "EXPRESS" IS NOT DERailed, a plebiscite on a new Constitution could be held by January, according to Speaker Jose de Venecia.

On the eve of oral arguments before the Supreme Court on a people's initiative to amend the Constitution, De Venecia told the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines in Makati yesterday he expected the "wise men of the Supreme Court, who are also men of integrity and wisdom, to give due course to the very strong will of the people."

Makabulan was even more optimistic.

Pulso officials said yesterday they were also focused on pushing for Charter change—with an interim parliament in place by January.

This after the Supreme Court begins hearing today the arguments of all sides on the petition filed by the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines and Sigaw ng Bayan to prevent the Commission on Elections' rejection of a people's initiative to effect changes to the Constitution.

Specifically, the amendment would change the form of government from a presidential to a parliamentary system.

De Venecia hinted the Supreme Court would uphold the people's initiative because the close to 9 million voter signatures gathered by Ulap and Sigaw ng Bayan "represent a strong moral force."

"Assuming the Supreme Court will decide in 45 days, including an Lupit [sentence for reconsideration (by the Senate and anti-Cha-cha groups), a 60-day campaign period will follow," he said.

"So it (a plebiscite) should be around January," he added.

Presidential political adviser Gabriel Claudio said Makabulan was hoping the Supreme Court would rule on the people's initiative petition "with urgency and dispatch" because this was a matter "imbued with supreme national importance."

"We're racing against time," Claudio told the historian. "We're competing with preparations for the mid-term elections under the present setup."

The "ideal scenario" envisioned by the Palace is to have a plebiscite by December or early January next year, Ocampo said.

This was in order for the interim parliament to be set up by January, he said in a phone interview.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the administration wanted to exhaust all efforts in achieving the Charter change but admitted things should start happening by December.

"We should have a clearer picture toward December because by mid-January, candidates would have to file their certificates for candidacy," he told reporters, referring to preparations for the mid-term elections in May 2007 if Charter change were not effected earlier.

At the same time, Ermita denied a move report Palace officials were in the process of winnowing the candidates for senator of the administration, as claimed by Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor.

But Defensor was at it again yesterday, floating the names of possible administration candidates for the Senate, including Benito Ramos, which the latter promptly denied.

Like Ermita, Claudio said he was not aware of any talks on the administration's senatorial line up because "we're consistent with our advocacy" for Charter change.

## *Erap wants to attend Cha-cha hearing*

By Norman Bordadora

FORMER PRESIDENT JOSEPH Estrada yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan special division to allow him to attend today's oral arguments before the Supreme Court on the people's initiative as a means to change the 1987 Constitution.

Lawyer Jose Supang admitted that the manifestation was made in short notice because of a miscommunication between Estrada's defense panel in the plunder trial and Estrada's lawyers who filed his and the Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino's opposition to the initiative before the high tribunal.

"I'll get a telephone call from the principal accused [on Estrada's decision]," insisting that we file [with] a motion for leave to be able to attend the oral argument in the Supreme Court [because] Erap said.

Estrada wanted to take part in the proceedings "on an issue of transcendental importance as to whether or not the people's initiative," the lawyer added.

"[This] motion [was not] filed earlier because of [a] miscommunication as to whether or not counsel in the Supreme Court case should have filed this pa per," he said.

CARDINAL'S CAP
Manila Archbishop Emeritus Cardinal Rosales (center) tries on a New York Yankees baseball cap, a gift from the Filipino community shortly after celebrating Holy Mass on Sunday at the St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. Leading the Filipino faithful who packed the cathedral were Ambassador Lauro L. Baja Jr. and Consul General Cecilia Rebong.

# 'Gag' order riles Senate

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

A WORD WAR BETWEEN THE SENATE AND the Supreme Court escalated yesterday with Sen. Franklin Drilon taking it to the floor and denouncing the imposition of the high court shortly his statement about a "gag order" being imposed on senators, on pain of contempt, with regard to their investigation of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

Drilon did not like the tone or implications of the statement, saying SC spokesperson Ismael Khan transmitted the gag order "as if the Senate is a subordinate of the Supreme Court."

Drilon was also riled by Khan's seeming threat to hold in contempt those who violate the so-called gag order. Senators and non-governors are vested by the Constitution with "absolute immunity" from contempt. He cited Article VI which states that "no member [of Congress] shall be questioned or be held liable in any other place for any speech or debate in the Congress or in any committee thereof," said Drilon.

"If no committee [on the issue] right here in this hall, do we get summoned to the court to explain?" he added.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said justices could be unaware of the constitutional provision granting lawmakers immunity from contempt for making comments on any issue.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, who argued for the Senate in the Supreme Court hearing of the PCGG petition questioning the Senate's authority to arrest three nominees who are refusing to testify at its hearings, reckoned that the gag or making comments on the matter was "by mutual agreement" among the SC, the Senate and the PCGG.

The Supreme Court consequently suspended the Senate hearings and allowed PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio to go home, pending resolution of the PCGG's petition questioning the legality of the warrant of arrest issued by the Senate against PCGG commissioners.

Senate President Manuel Villar has already directed Senate legal counsel David Castillo to explain to them why the senators were "upset."

On Drilon's motion, the Senate also ordered Senate public information chief Jose Garcia to also invite Khan to inform him about the sentiments of the senators.

Meanwhile, PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede added more fire to the tussle by saying that Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel should face contempt charges for commenting on the issue of alleged anomalies in the Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat) despite the gag order brokered by the Supreme Court.

With reports from Ida Ida Papa

## Mayuga: Danga's time has passed

By Dona Pazzibugan

AFTER COMING CLOSE TO LOSING HIS post, Navy Flag Officer in Command Vice Adm. Mateo Mayuga said his reported challenger could no longer aspire to be Navy chief—that is, if Malacañang follows the law.

Hard upread at the Navy headquarters last Saturday that Vice Adm. Tirso Danga, chief of the military's Western Command, would be appointed Navy chief on Sunday, Sept. 24.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. denied the rumor, but Mayuga himself appeared unsure about his status.

"We follow legitimate orders. As of today, there are no orders from higher headquarters relieving me as Flag Officer in Command so I would presume that I'm still the Navy chief," Mayuga said when interviewed at the Navy headquarters yesterday afternoon.

"If there's an order [for my relief], I will go. But in the absence of orders, I stay," added Mayuga, who returned from a weekend trip to the United States last Saturday night.

Danga refused to take phone calls from the media over the weekend.

He was at the Western headquarters in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, when the issue broke. Finally reached him through his cell phone yesterday afternoon.

"I have no comment," he said.

Asked if he would like to answer allegations against him, he replied: "They're just intrigues," and promptly turned off his cell phone.

Mayuga will not retire until Dec. 9, but according to at least two senior Navy officers, Danga lobbied for his appointment as Navy chief by Sept. 24, exactly a year before his mandatory retirement.

Since no appointments papers came out last Sunday, Danga no longer has a chance to be Navy chief, according to Mayuga.

He cited Republic Act No.8 186, which states that officials who have less than a year before the service cannot be appointed to a major service command. With a report from Cleva Cine G. Avendaño

# P1.4B more sought for PNP

By Norman Bordadora

# A case of the wolf guarding the hen house

By Alexis Pupa

IT'S A CASE OF THE WOLF GUARDING THE hen house.

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency's non-internal affairs chief was arrested on Saturday at the home for possession of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu and drug paraphernalia.

SPO4 Glenn Logan was arrested at 10:30 p.m. in Barangay Pasong Putik, Bocaue, Bulacan, by PDEA and Bocaue provincial police operatives, according to Rodolfo Cadelo, PDEA deputy chief for administration.

Logan will be charged before the Bocaue Prosecutor's Office with violation of Republic Act No. 9165, the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, for possession of narcotic substances containing 10 grams of shabu and a weighing scale, Cadelo said.

If found guilty, he could face a life sentence.

Prior to his arrest, Logan was the lead investigator into the Aug. 23 break-in at the PDEA's evidence room at its Quezon City headquarters where seven kilos of shabu worth P35 million were stolen.

"We are in the process of establishing any link between Logan and the group (that stole the shabu). We are just waiting for the lab tests on the evidence recovered before criminal cases can be filed," Cadelo said.

In the evidence theft, nine agency officials—Superintendents Jerome Watin, chief of Special Enforcement Division, and Gaudent Torres, chief of the Administration and Human Resources Department—were tagged as suspects along with three PDEA guards.

Motin was arrested Monday last week at a mall in Fairview, Quezon City. Recovered from him was 125 grams of shabu.

The PDEA said the other suspects were denied re-enrollment.

They were identified as Insp. Jedrulo Dalili, Jr. and security guards Oliver Fernandez and Lene Granada. Eleven remains at large.

Granada was cited as an efficient patrolling in Bulacan in the enumeration of the theft.

He said he was given only P135,000 of a promised P1 million as his share of the loot.

Cadelo said Logan was under surveillance for their resolve after being suspected of involvement in the sale of shabu.

He was arrested on the strength of a warrant issued by Judge Reynaldo Ilao of Marilao Regional Trial Court Branch 22.

"It's sad but we have to do this. We can't really perform our jobs very well if there are people who work against our mission," said Director Santiago, PDEA chief, at a press conference Sunday night where Logan was presented to media.

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BYTHEBOOK SECRETARY Ronaldo Puno yesterday urged his former colleagues in the House of Representatives to approve the P1,429-billion supplemental budget proposed by Malacañang for the 2006 this year.

Puno also asked that another P1 billion be allocated for the department next year to cover, among others, the purchase of 5,000 guns and 500 police cars as the PNP takes a more active part in interagency operations.

"One of the P1,429 billion supplemental budget proposed by the Department of Budget and Management (this year), P749 million will be used to pay the backearned pensions of 2,867 injured and disabled policemen since 2000," Puno said.

He said that some P51 million of the supplemental budget would fund the hiring of 500 new jail guards for the understaffed Bureau of Jail Management and Penology which supervises over the country's municipal, city and district jails.

He said that P39 million will be used to hire 200 new firefighters for the Bureau of Fire Protection "which has long needed upgrading, having to cope with the acute shortage of manpower and facilities."

Puno said a total of P590 million will go to the salary adjustments of employees of the BJMP and BFP and the cadets of the Philippine National Police Academy.

# 10,000 cases vs Thaksin; junta may freeze his assets

From page A1

London, would probably testify in person by interview.

Auditor General Antonio Nitoto said his office had finished its investigation into the shady purchase of airport security scanners and the construction of transport links to Bangkok's new international airport, which opens Thursday. He said a report on the investigation was almost finished.

### Widespread corruption

His office is one of several independent bodies probing alleged corruption in Thaksin's government.

Thaksin's military rulers, who seized control during last week's bloodless coup while Thaksin was abroad, revived the National Counter Corruption Commission to investigate widespread allegations of graft under his five-year rule.

Thaksin's ruling military council also established an even more powerful commission, headed by himself, with authority to order arrests of politicians and their families.

Thaksin remained in exile in London, reportedly having given up attempts to regain power. His wife, Pojaman, left Bangkok to join him early Monday, a senior airline official said.

### Influential wife

Pojaman, widely regarded as have wielded great influence on her husband's decisions, left on Thai Airways International carrying five suitcases with her, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to give statements to the press.

The officials denied Thaksin had left Thailand with six "secret ops" suitcases of baggage, saying reports the six suitcases may have whisked away each from the country's airports were untrue.

Thaksin left the country for a series of foreign engagements 10 days before the coup that ousted him, and a later flight from Bangkok brought officials to a summit in Cuba that picked up Thaksin in their transit to Havana.

"Both flights took off from the military airport and the amount of luggage was not unusual," Group Capt. Montol Sucksuwan, a Royal Thai Air Force spokesperson, told reporter Francis Pereira.

Sucksuwan said it remained on the reported "high" number of luggage stowed on board the non-aircraft, at a time of switching rumors that a coup was imminent.

The military-operated Airline Life That Join Fun—the Thai equivalent of Air Force One—said the chartered Thai Airways flight that followed five days later never got padded with a large amount of baggage, officials said.

Pitidol Bangsuksalad, a lawyer for Thaksin in Bangkok, told The Associated Press that Thaksin and some former soldiers were prepared to cooperate with the investigation.

"I have not yet talked to Prime Minister Thaksin and his family but I believe that he is ready to testify to clear himself," Pitidol said.

All the ministers he had spoken to told him they had confidence in cooperating with it, including former Agriculture Minister Sudarat Keyuraphan, the deputy leader of Thaksin's Thai Rak Thai party.

"I have not and had some talks with him (Thaksin), the ex-prime minister by the message is not positive that we have to halt all activities for the time being and attend full cooperation to the (military council). All activities has to halt," Sudarat told reporters.

On Sunday, the junta announced that a new member committee, headed by Surayud, would move quickly against wrongdoing in the Thaksin administration, focusing on a number of mega-projects that some suspect were riddled with graft.

"There is a collection evidence to believe that members of the former government's abused their power seeking benefits for their personal gain, and caused serious damage to the country," the military said.

It is a process that wealth was acquired illegally, the committee has the power to freeze or confiscate the assets of a politician, his or her spouse, and children. *Reports from AP and AFP*

## *How much is Thaksin worth?*

THERE ARE MANY REPORTS on the wealth of Thaksin's family, estimated at $2.2 billion in a July report on Thailand's 40 richest people by Forbes magazine.

- Thaksin and his wife Pojaman and other members of their family own 49% of Shin Corp. with interests ranging from mobile phones and satellites to the telecom and media industries.
- On Jan. 23, the Thaksins and Chinnawats family members controlling 49.6 percent shares in Shin Corp. in Singapore shares transferred from Temasek Holdings for 73.3 billion baht ($1.9 billion) in cash.
- The Thaksin-era foreign ownership restrictions in advertising, media, telecommunications and satellite, including property developers (EC Land Corp).
- Bill Gross, with a reported value of $83 million, is 41.8 percent owned by Thaksin's wife and two daughters. Thaksin's sister is chair of the company.
- Thaksin's wife, Pantthongtae owns a stake in Sun Cross Enterprises Limited Co., and Master Peng Co., a luxury outlet.
- Thaksin's wife also owns land in Bangkok. *Reuters*

# Fraport, Piatco execs face criminal charges

From page A1

the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Under the Constitution, foreigners can own only up to 40 percent of public utilities.

In a letter to Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño, Victor A. Rosal, deputy director for Special Investigation Service of the NBI, said "there appears to [be a] prima facie case against" Fraport and Piatco officials for violating the Anti-Dummy Law, also known as Commonwealth Act No. 108.

It found guilty of violating the law, officials of Fraport, Piatco, Philippine Airport and Ground Services (PAGS), Philippine Airport and Ground Services Terminal Inc. (PTI), Philippine Airport and Ground Service Terminal Holdings Inc. (PTH) and People's Air Cargo & Warehousing Co. Inc. (Paircargo) could face imprisonment of up to 15 years.

Those recommended for prosecution were Fraport chairman Edmund Cheng Kong, Fraport vice president Peter Hinkel, Aaron C. Cheng, Jefferson G. Cheng, Rita Bendijo, S. Swami Ayetin, Elin C. Cheng, Mackinnon Nakel, Gil Cenzo Jr., Katherine Agner-BCC Arnaldo, Jorg Seyffart, Rhodri T. Opaleseva, Klaus Antwerner P. Morais, Ricardo C. Cantin Jr., Thanh de Hoa Vinet, Bernard F. R. Miller and Marcial S. Bocaneg.

Documents obtained by the NBI showed that except for Fraport, Piatco and the other companies involved in the deal it penned had common officers and directors.

Those serving on the Piatco and NBI Director Nestor Mantaring, also submitted to the BOI documents made by Roberto S. de Alban and Josefito S. Arroza of the NBI Legal Evaluation Division, and a complaint affidavit of Nicholas Dela M. Mendoza, also from the NBI, a previous director of the Concerned Lawyers for Moral and Effective Leadership (Clamor).

In his complaint, Roberto accused the officers and executives of Fraport, Piatco, PAGS, PTI, PTH and Paircargo of violating the Constitution and laws imposing nationality restrictions, particularly the Anti-Dummy Law and Republic Act No. 7042, or the Foreign Investment Act of 1991.

RA 7042 provides that foreign ownership is neither engaged in the operation and management of public utilities, including airport terminals, is limited to 40 percent.

"In view of the grave danger and the adverse 'ripple effect' of these violations to the national interest, the immediate investigation and prosecution of the instant case is not only warranted but called imperative," Bautista said.

### Nationalized activity

He said that under Section 11, Article XII, of the Constitution, the operation of public utilities, such as Item 3, is a nationalized activity, as it may only be undertaken by corporations organized under the laws of the Philippines, of which 60 percent of the outstanding capital stock is owned by Filipino citizens.

However, Bautista claimed that Fraport, in collusion with officials of Piatco, PAGS, PTI, PTH and Paircargo, who are nominal "dummies" for foreign ownership in public utilities to 40 percent.

After acquiring shares in the companies, including a 20-percent stake in Piatco, Fraport's capital direct and indirect interest in Piatco reached 61.4 percent, according to Bautista.

"Fraport thereby owns 26 percent and indirectly controls, through its subsidiary PAGS, PTH and PTI, 34.4 percent of respondent Piatco, giving Fraport a 61.4 percent interest in Piatco," he said.

Based on the anti-Dummy Law, Bautista said the Cheng Sons, Jr., Fraport, PAGS, PTI and PTH had formed 1st Pro Fraport to acquire shares in Piatco.

The violations allegedly committed by Fraport and Piatco officials will add to the legal problems that prevent the opening of Rwy 13.

### Arbitration court

Fraport is demanding $465 million in compensation for Rwy 13 and is pursuing its case against the government in a World Bank arbitration court.

Malacañang said the government would submit a copy of the text of proceedings at the Singapore-based International Chamber of Commerce arbitration tribunal, which last month ordered the government to release payment of the terminal to Piatco for failing to pay it just compensation.

Piatco filed an arbitration case with the ICC after the government unilaterally cancelled the facility in 2004.

The committees built the terminal under a "build-operate-transfer" contract, but in 2002 President Diosdado Macapagal-Arroyo revoked the contract for being tainted with graft.

In December 2004, the government lifted a court decision to return it to a Pasay City court to it could take over Nido 3. The court ordered it to pay Piatco $62.3 million (about P3 billion) as partial payment for the facility.

In 2005, the Supreme Court gave the go-signal to the government to operate the troubled facility as star upheld the Pasay court's ruling that the government pay Piatco the P3 billion.

### Restraining order

This was opposed by Gloria Sandoval Bolotaolo who filed a motion to intervene in the expropriation case. It was Bolotaolo's petition to the Court of Appeals that became the basis for the temporary restraining order blocking the takeover of the payment to Piatco on Aug. 29.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said early this month that the government would take full control and push for the opening, possibly in early 2007, of the multibillion-peso second other a major legal obstacle to its possession of the facility had been lifted.

Ermita said the Court of Appeals had lifted the injunction it issued on Aug. 29 stopping the government of the P3 billion initial compensation to Piatco.

Ermita said Piatco would get the money and that would prevent the way for the Pasay court to issue a writ of possession to the government.

With the writ, he said the Manila International Airport Authority could go ahead and complete the remaining work to be done on the facility, as urged by the airlines and countermeasures' lease contracts and prepare for the terminal's opening.


Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
[illegible]

**NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)**

Notice is hereby given that the following employment/s have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permit/s

| Name and address of Company/Employer | Name of Foreign National | Position |
|---|---|---|
| ARETAS FX INTERNATIONAL CORP. Rm. 208 Mabuhi Executive Center 814 J.P. Laurel St., Salcedo Village Makati City | Kua Wee Seng | President |
| GREEN FROST ICE CREAM CORP. Unit 101, Lot 1 Square Bldg. 454 Ortigas Ave., Greenhills San Juan, Metro Manila | Sung Hwan Cho | President |
| SAILER FOUNDATIONS PHILIPPINES, INC. Unit 606, 6/F, AIC Burgundy IBP Road, Ortigas Center Pasig Alexandra Court Hotel Legaspi Village, Makati City | Lasko Ramsang | Drilling Rig Operator |
| JFE ENGINEERING CORP. (PHIL. BRANCH) Unit 2501 Philippine Stock Exchange Center, Ortigas Center, Pasig City | Ko Nakamura | Assistant Project Manager |
| CHIKA-KOSE AND BRIDGE CORPORATION Suite 1304 6/F, Solid Bldg. 163 SM Aglow Ave., Ermita, Manila | Hongkyun Ko | Administrative Manager |
| A PLUS CHINESE LANGUAGE CENTER & PRE-SCHOOL, INC. 45 Festival Mall, Alabang-Zapote Road Muntinlupa City | Leigh Jung | Mandarin Language Teacher |
| A PLUS CHINESE LANGUAGE CENTER & PRE-SCHOOL, INC. 45 Festival Mall, Alabang-Zapote Road Muntinlupa City | Lu Feng | Mandarin Language Teacher |
| A PLUS CHINESE LANGUAGE CENTER & PRE-SCHOOL, INC. 45 Festival Mall, Alabang-Zapote Road Muntinlupa City | Jianfeng Zhou | Mandarin Language Teacher |
| PSC INFO TECHNOLOGY INC. 27 Archbishop St., Mandaluyong Philippines City | Sangeeta | Administrative Manager |
| PSC INFO TECHNOLOGY INC. 27 Archbishop St., Mandaluyong Philippines City | Ram Avtadi | Director |
| MERITELL INC. 19 Harvard Bldg., Emerald Ave. Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City | Mihir Lee Jain Hari | Senior Consultant |
| PILIPINAS INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SERVICES INC. 2607 Dusit Square Bldg. Gamboa St., Ortigas, Pasig City | Wilson Alan Kanaina | Information Systems Analyst Associate |
| HONDA (PHILIPPINES), INC. 2307 Pasong Tamo Tower Paseo de Roxas, Makati City | Hiki Sigfrid Karlsson | Business Controller |
| A PLUS CHINESE LANGUAGE CENTER & PRE-SCHOOL, INC. 45 Festival Mall, Alabang-Zapote Road Muntinlupa City | Hong Yang | Mandarin Language Teacher |
| FILSETEC SYS SOLUTIONS PHILIPPINES, INC. 301 Cityland Tower 2000 Bldg. Ortigas Complex, Pasig City | Takanori Ogawa | System Manager |

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LIBERTO M. CAYETANO
Regional Director

DOLE-NCR-IS-2006


# Rebel ma gives up NPA to be with 5 children

From page A1

Dreams on issues concerning the youth.

During the forum, women who were caught in armed conflicts talked about their experiences before a large group of mostly high-school students.

About 7,500 students listened in at UE while another 10,000 more than 1,000 attended the forum at Mapua Diliman.

### Tears

It was in was the first speaker. When she began her story, she was calm and collected, but as her narration went on, emotion took over, and she shed tears.

A native of Bicol, she was only 18 when she was recruited to the NPA. "It was not my original intention to join. I was supposed to be applying for a job, but when we were taken to a camp, I just went with the flow."

### Married to a comrade

After six months of training, she went to see her family again. "We were all in tears. My parents said they were afraid for me take. They pitied my condition because I had gone on the run," she said.

"But in the end, when I was talking to them, it was as though I was also trying to recruit them into the NPA," she said.

### Married to a comrade

Pamela assumed combat duty within the organization and, for 12 years, fought government forces in Southern Luzon.

She married a comrade, and gave birth to five children, with ages now ranging from 7 to 12.

As mandated policy in the camp, every time Pamela gave birth, her child was taken away to be reared by different caretakers.

"They [her children] couldn't even know each other. And they only thought of me as a relative," she said. "It was difficult knowing my children were growing up with other people."

"It hurt me, but I just tried to ignore the sad feelings. I couldn't do anything. I had no choice," Pamela said.

This went on for many years, she said, until one day she just woke up wondering why she could not live a happy life with her family.

"When I became older, I realized that the ideals of my youth were not as important as my children. I longed to be with them," Pamela said. "I wanted a good future for them."

### Complete

Today her battle is complete. Her husband turned himself in to authorities three months ago, out of weariness, she said, although his wife is in a hospital for a lung infection.

"I'm happy now that we're a family," she said. "I may have made bad choices for my children. But I hope they'll understand my reasons when they're older."

Her children may still be getting used to the idea of their parents being a family, after growing up in different households.

But Francis is unperturbed. After all, she now has all the time in the world to look after them.

The organizer and partner of Music Tech 3 is also upheld the Pasay court's ruling that the government pay Piatco the P3 billion.


THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, September 26, 2006
25th Week in Ordinary Time
Common of Martyrs

1st Reading: Prv 21:1-6, 10-13
Gospel: Lk 8:19-21

Thou hast number and his relatives came to him, but they could not get to him because of the crowd. Someone told him, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside and they want to see you." He said to them in reply, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."

Commentary

God weighs our hearts and is interested in our practice of justice and faithfulness. We are satisfied always by the Just One and it is because when we ignore the cry of the poor, do we have hard and suspended, as our God will respond to us. This is why we have to feed each other, to give the God if we wish to know justice and love. Love will love and will not. Father, that we must have the word of God and put it into practice. This is justice in Jesus' family. He was loved by Mary and by family ties, blood or marriage. How does one come to be one with God's Father, really?

Olympian Publications, Inc., Fifty-one (51) [illegible]

PAMELA gave up life as a commander to look after her five children.

# GMA plans to lend billions to poorest villages

By Gil Cabacungan

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO IS planning to provide billions of pesos in micro-financing credit to the country's poorest villages using thousands of social workers as conduits.

"We want the Department of Social Welfare and Development to fund those areas where there are no credit at all, which shows that we haven't really reached all 42,000 barangays."

She said this situation had been corrected with the signing of Executive Order No. 588 which instructed government entities to lend their money through social workers of the DSWD.

The President brushed off concerns that lifting the prohibition on direct lending of 6.5% in small loans would lead to bribed loans. "There is no worry. Finance Secretary Gary Teves is now working on guidelines," the President said.

BASTA TUBO i-MOLDEH MO!

# Gov't earmarks P500M to set up UP 'Silicon Valley'

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES campus at Diliman, Quezon City, is getting a P500-million budget to set up the country's version of "Silicon Valley" a cooking frozen border said yesterday.

Science and Technology Leader Luis Villafuerte said P500-million has been earmarked in this year's P906.4 billion supplemental budget "for the infrastructure development" of the 22-hectare Diliman Science Complex and Technology Incubation Park in the UP main campus.

The lawmaker, who recently led a group of scientists that visited Malaysia, said the allotment will boost the country's science and technology (S&T) sector.

In his State of the Nation Address in July, President Macapagal-Arroyo vowed "to intensify strategies for global competitiveness, including the mobilization, upgrading and disseminations of new knowledge and technology-driven productivity."

Villafuerte said the Diliman hub would serve as the national center for research and development in the natural and applied sciences, and mathematics.

It is patterned after the Stanford University Silicon Valley area in California and the Hsinchu Science Park in Taiwan, he said. In these areas, high technology hubs are located close to a cooperative university.

# Haydee Yorac's mother dies at 90

JOSEFA R. YORAC (MARIA SAW IN THE GRACE) about Lord on Sept. 23, 2006 at the age of 90.

She is the mother of the late Haydee B. Yorac, UP law professor and former chair of the Commission on Elections and Presidential Commission on Good Government, who died on Sept. 1 [illegible] last year.

She is survived by her daughters Evelyn and husband Manny, Stella and Ben, Margie, Cec-

[illegible] and Mark, Amy, son Jose and grandchildren, [illegible], Sarah, Heather and Emily. Relatives and friends request friends and [illegible] to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

The remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Chapel, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City. Interment will take place after the 10:00 a.m. Funeral Mass on Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2006, at the Garden of Eternity, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

# Almanon passes away

DOMINGO FERRALES ALMANON (1932–[illegible]) Sept. 15, 2006. He is survived by his loving wife Rosario Y. Almanon and children: Marichu, Dodjie, Bobi, Dominique, Carlo, Mina and Irene.

His body lies in state at the Wilting-Wilting Chapel of Funeraria Filipina, Mabuhay Japan Road, Las Piñas City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2006, at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 9 a.m. Mass at Funeraria Filipina.


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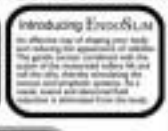

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# Defense rests case in Subic rape trial

Front page A1

witnesses as well as the physical evidence, are later created reasonable doubt that rape was committed. Nominally, you have only two eyewitnesses in rape (the victim, plaintiff and the alleged rapist) ... It seldom happens that rape is witnessed by a third party," Asistores said.

The complainant "Nicole" had accused Smith of raping her at the three other accused cleared him or, while they were on board a cluster van traveling inside the Subic Bay Freeport before midnight on June 1, 2005.

The complainant said she was too drunk to have put up a fight against Smith, who allegedly joined her dinner at the back of the van. Owing to her intoxicated condition and her fragmented memory that night, Nicole told the court that she had no recollection of the actual intercourse and only have realized the fact from abused when the felon puts to her private parts.

Smith, however, denied the allegations. He said he and Nicole had consensual sex that night.

He said that the complainant, then 22, flirted with him in the Subic bar where they met and that she later smacked a reception desk and threw in consternation the sex act, given the van's cramped space.

In their testimony, Gregorio Sillwood and Stephanie Indeed Smith's account.

### Reluctant witness

The defense panel had wanted to call on the stand another witness, a woman from Subic, but she "was reluctant to testify because she didn't want to be in the limelight," Dino said. The lawyer declined to name the reported witness.

The defense decided to rest its case after presenting Cpl. Jeane Michael Bamberger (Nicole's friend who had communicated with her before and after the alleged incident) and Dr. Teresita Sanchez, an obstetrician-gynecologist.

Sanchez was recalled to the stand yesterday at Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 139. She testified that Nicole had no injuries on her inner thighs and knees, as rape victims commonly sustained.

State Prosecutor Hazel Melin asked Sanchez what she had based her statement on.

"I based my testimony on the overall results, legal examination of the victim. There was no evidence to show that she was susceptible to contusions because she sustained [bruises] with the grasping of her arms ... Therefore, with any force, you should expect contusions on her inner thighs or knees because of the spreading of the legs," Sanchez said.

### Not personally

The doctor also told the court that she did not personally examine the complainant.

"In your would have no basis to say [if] she is susceptible to bruising?" Judge Benjamin Pozon asked Sanchez.

Sanchez, however, stuck to her earlier testimony and said the medico-legal examination, conducted on Nicole 33 hours after the alleged rape, was basis enough for her to make such an opinion.

Malkin asked whether someone as drunk as Nicole purportedly was on the night of the incident would have resisted an attacker.

Sanchez said one who was very drunk would be in a stupor, hence, one could still respond to stimulus. The reflex, she said, would have been to close the legs, rather than to open them."

In an interview after the hearing, Malkin said this statement was "contrary to human experience and behavior."

Malkin, however, got a devilish reply with this question: "Will you agree with me that evidence of external injury is not essential for the prosecution of rape ... that it is possible for rape to have happened even in the absence of injury for the complainant?"

"That is also dependent on the circumstances," Sanchez said.

Despite his comments, Dino said the possibility of rape despite the absence of external injuries could not apply to Nicole's case.

"There was no injury in the inner thighs, indicating that there was consensual sex," Dino said.

After yesterday's hearing, there was one question on everyone's mind: Would Nicole get a second chance to tell her story in court after her very public ill with her government lawyers?

According to Senior State Prosecutor Emilio Fe de Los Santos, whose team Nicole had earlier thanked for supposed incompetence, "we don't see any reason, as of today, to call her back."

De los Santos added that it would still be additional testimony from Nicole only "if it's vital."

At yesterday's hearing, the prosecution said it would call back two previous witnesses from the US Naval Criminal Investigative Service—agents Troy Pilgrim and Tony Santos. The court scheduled the rebuttal to start on Thursday next week.

### Reasonable doubt

Off-court, De los Santos said Stanprosecutor and Reuters would be asked about the claim made by accused Smith that they had sex over 20 hours after the alleged rape, which saw some part of the court records.

Smith and the other accused were later rescued by NCIS agents in the early hours of May 3, 2005, just over 24 hours after the alleged crime, or found the Mariner ship, the USS Essex.

Asked what she thought of the entire defense evidence, De los Santos said the four Marines "gave conflicting statements against the accused."

However, Silkwood's counsel, Justiniano, said: "We have created reasonable doubt, and if there's reasonable doubt, then the court has a duty to acquit."

Assistant Secretary Raul Gonzalez moved put on his decision not to register the public possession handling Nicole's case.

Dropping the public prosecutor at this point was unwise and would only delay the prosecutings beyond the one-year prescription period, he said.

"We must we keep on changing, the more chances of delay there will be. And I think we're in a hurry to finish this case before the limit set forth in the Visiting Forces Agreement will be visiting us in our force," Gonzalez told reporters at the Senate yesterday.

He said he had granted the oath by request of the victim's family to allow the private prosecutor to argue the case but there was no way he would grant the new request to despite public prosecutors.

### Another agenda

"I will not remove this panel. I've given them enough leeway, I think, by allowing the private prosecutor to handle the case. What else do they want?" he said.

Nicole had sought the replacement of four of the five public prosecutors because she was "extremely disappointed" with Subic Prosecutor's cross-examination of her alleged rapist, Smith.

Her mother had also claimed that De los Santos had breached a settlement with the Marines to notify at July on their cases could end up being sealed off with the case of former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante.

Bolante, the alleged mastermind of the P728-million fertilizer fund scam, is being held in the United States for violation of immigration laws.

"I'm asking the SBF to investigate the particular aspect about the charge that Bolante's was being used ... The injustice of Bolante's case is also in this case we are trying to involve Malacañang because Bolante is a total stranger in the prosecuting. It was never mentioned at all," Gonzales said.


I used to check my hair in the mirror all the time, concerned about my receding hairline. Not anymore.

"I started losing hair in my late twenties, and it got to a point that it was really receding around the temple area. I'm not ready to look old, so I tried different solutions. I was thinking of toupees when I saw this ad for Nu/Hart Hair Clinics on the Internet. I called them up, and the next time I came home for a visit I scheduled myself for a hair transplant.

It's a relatively painless procedure. It takes my own hair, and the results are natural and permanent. It's really good that I don't have to be so self-conscious about my receding hairline. Now I am more confident than ever. My friends, they haven't seen me for a while don't believe this younger. I told them it's a big deal that I had transplant."

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

Pursuant to Section 1, Rule 1 of the Rules of the Judicial and Bar Council (BC) 1996, as amended, the Judicial and Bar Council announces the following applicants for the position of DEPUTY OMBUDSMAN FOR THE MILITARY at the Supreme Court Building.

| MONDAY, OCTOBER 02, 2006 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 NOON | MONDAY, OCTOBER 02, 2006 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. |
|---|---|
| 1. ALVAREZ, Wallace B. | 1. PALLEN, Ricardo V.(1) |
| 2. COLARDE, Benedicto V. | 2. FRANCISCO, Raymundo T. |
| 3. CAMILMIL, Maximo Arthur R. | 3. HERNANDEZ, Wilfredo Fred L. |
| 4. DE LOS SANTOS, Emilio B. | 4. PAGALILAUAN, Rodolfo Vicente Z. |
| 5. DE JESUS, Jose Tomas V. III | 5. YUMUL, Jr., Eduardo C. |
| 6. DE LUNA, Annamarie B. | 6. YAP, Evander L. |

The five (five) applicants namely: APOSTOL, Pompeyo S.; ELIDAN, Rodolfo M.; GONZALES, Estelito N.; REYES, Robert E.; LANTIONG, Gerardo Jr. B. were already interviewed by the JBC on June 19 & July 25, 2006.

The public may submit any sworn complaints, written report or supportive papers any of the aforesaid applicants NOT LATER THAN THURSDAY, OCTOBER 05, 2006 to the JBC Secretariat, 2nd Flr., Supreme Court Building, Padre Faura St., Manila (Tel. 552-9510 Fax No. 552-9599).

September 21, 2006

MA. LOURDES D. VILLARAMA
Clerk of Court II
Ex-Officio Secretary

PDI-Sept. 26, 2006

# Egg attack won't stop Esperon's . . .

Front page A1

Two months Esperon made clear yesterday as he vowed to remain in the hooted of student activism in the country shrugging off Friday's incident when 20 students pelted him with eggs and mud.

The controversial military chief had another reason for being in high spirits.

In "one of the happiest moments in my life," Esperon yesterday took his oath as a four-star general before President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang.

"I'm not angry anymore," he told reporters after the Palace ceremony. "They pelted me with bad eggs. Maybe those who threw them were bad eggs, too."

The general said he still held UP in "high regard" since he obtained his master's degree in business administration there and three of his children graduated from the university.

"I still remain in UP. I enjoyed UP," he said.

Esperon said he was also in action during his student days, and that he actually joined the Jose Quezon Student's violent student protests in early 1971.

"I have been through mistakes myself. I am with Pat Quezon Sisuman as I top student then," he said, adding activism should not be equated with forgoing correct decorum," Esperon said.

### Academic freedom

"I'm sorry to see that they're already graduating from college but it is unfortunate that they have a lot to learn about proper decorum," he went on.

Esperon had just finished speaking at a UP forum on "Development and Conflict" when the missiles flew.

Human rights groups have accused the military of involvement in the killing of hundreds of political activists since Ms Arroyo took office in 2001, and in the abduction of activists, including 10 students Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeno.

Esperon said he accepted the invitation to address organizers in the spirit of "academic freedom."

He said he appreciated the gesture of UP president Emerlinda Roman and other university officials who, he said, had called him up to apologize.

Esperon thanked Ms Arroyo for his brave war and expressed confidence that the Commission on Appointments (CA) would endorse him for his new position.

The post of AFP chief of staff is a four-star rank but the CA has only approved two stars for Esperon, triggering his promotion to the next notch of three stars or to last hearing in June.

Then, Esperon's appointment as AFP chief of staff is still considered to be temporary, pending CA confirmation.

### Not unique

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Esperon's case was not unique and cited the case of former AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Lisandro Abadia, whose promotion to three-star and four-star general were initially temporarily confirmed in one session by the CA in the early 1990s.

"This was the procedure followed by the CA at that time. Let's see what this present CA will do," Ermita told reporters.

Esperon said he was willing to go through the confirmation again even after the body had bypassed his rank or promotion.

"This is a feature of our democratic system which we will have to go through and I respect the wisdom of the CA," he said.


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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 001 | One Year Supply for the Month of November 2006 | P100,000.00 | P100.00 | Sep. 26 to 29, 2006 | Oct. 1, 2006 | Oct. 1, 2006 |
| 002 | One (1) Year Supply | 500,000.00 | 500.00 | Sep. 26 to 29, 2006 | Oct. 1, 2006 | Oct. 1, 2006 |

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as "An Act Providing for the Modernization, Standardization and Regulation of the Procurement Activities of the Government and for Other Purposes", also known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least one (1) year(s) experience in undertaking supply work belonging to classes of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act (RA) 8183. Only duly pre-qualified bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The purpose of the Eligibility Check is to determine whether the prospective bidders have the legal, technical and financial capabilities relevant to the subject contract. Only bidders who are determined to possess the necessary qualifications will be allowed to participate in the subject contract.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT and inspect the Bidding documents at the address given below during office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's and Manager's Check in the amount of One Percent (1%) of the Approved Budget Cost. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Opening shall be at the 2nd Floor, ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT Main Office Building, Pilar St. Zamboanga City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

Bidders may purchase the complete Bidding Documents from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).

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Atty. [illegible]
BAC - Vice Chairman

# Environmentalists score big win in House

By Blancie S. Rivera

ENVIRONMENTALISTS SCORED A MAJOR victory with the approval on third reading by the House of Representatives of the Renewable Energy bill that is designed to maximize the country's vast endowment in renewable energy resources.

The bill, which handled the House committee on energy on June 19, promotes the use of clean and renewable indigenous sources of energy, resulting in lower carbon dioxide and other toxic emissions from power generation through fossil fuel.

The World Wide Fund for Nature-Philippines, a member of the renewable Energy Coalition actively campaigning for the passage of the bill, said the landmark legislation would benefit not only the Philippines but the entire planet as the adverse effects of climate change are not restricted by boundaries.

"This will help prevent dangerous climate change while enhancing the country's energy security through renewable energy sources like wind, geothermal, biomass, solar and hydropower," WWF Climate and Energy Policy group head Rod Sempertegui said in a statement.

A University of the Philippines study commissioned by the WWF-Philippines estimated that the country could save up to $2.5 billion from importing less fossil fuel such as coal and oil if the government increases the share of indigenous renewable energy in power generation from the present 4 percent.

Less than one percent of the entire energy needs of the Philippines are currently sourced from renewable sources such as wind, sun and tides in biomass.

The Renewable Energy Bill offers fiscal and non-fiscal incentives such as zero-value added tax and priority dispatch for wind power and other projects that use renewable indigenous energy sources to promote the use of cleaner energy resources.

The passage of the bill in the Lower House came as a new study by the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) composed of some 1,300 companies, organizations and institutions in over 50 countries, confirmed the Philippines' vast wind power potential.

The "Global Wind Energy Outlook 2006" launched in Australia by the GWEC and Greenpeace said the Philippines had the highest wind energy potential in Southeast Asia.

"The report finally places wind power as one of the world's most important energy sources for the 21st century. The Philippines has the potential to become a leading player in this field," Greenpeace Southeast Asia Climate and Energy campaigner Jasper Inventor said in a separate statement.

The UK-based National Renewable Energy Laboratory has placed the Philippines' wind energy potential at 76,000 MW, which is enough to meet the country's current energy demand seven times over, according to Greenpeace.

The Renewable Energy Coalition, which kicked off its campaign (mill-sentral) campaign for the Renewable energy bill last year, has gathered 300,000 sign-ons from concerned individuals worldwide for its Pedilbong Abierwatter any Renewable Energy (PARE as Juan) signed an campaign.

# PNP asks DOJ to reopen case of Tamano's killing

By Armand N. Nocum

THE POLICE HAS RECOMMENDED THE RE-opening of the murder case against a former Lanao mayor and four of his sons for the killing of Lt. Lt. Sultir Haider Tamano—the "gest" of the Mili cises of 1998—and his aide Pfc. Nimrod Bora in Cagayan de Oro on Dec. 11, 2005.

In a request to Justice Undersecretary Antonio Eduardo B. Nachura, Chief Supt. Jaime Caballero G. Bonigay Jr. of the legal affairs division of the Philippine National Police Intelligence Group (PNP) said they have unearthed new evidence that would link former Rapid Lanao del Sur Mayor Alonto Abdulgani and five of his sons to the killing.

Bonigay submitted to Nachura "pieces of evidence" that would sufficiently establish the complicity of the accused and hereby respectfully move for the reopening of this case in the interest of justice."

The new evidence include affidavits from witnesses, reports on the firearms used and their identification numbers, cartographic sketch of the scene, and photos of the gun-ary vehicle, among others.

Bonigay also asked that a certain Sacho Chanel Mangotara, "owner of the get-away vehicle used in the commission of the crime, be charged as among the co-conspirators."

Those earlier charged for the murder were the former mayor, Limpang Abdulgani, Bokary Cabasan Abdulgani, Faisal Ambo, Ltd. Udtogtuan Dipalanggat and several John Does.

Senior State Prosecutor Jose R. Dimen had recommended the dismissal of the case for "insufficiency of evidence" and ordered the accused back to the DOJ to "conduct confirmatory and corroborative investigations of the case."

Tamano, 29, then with the Army's 4th Infantry Intelligence Battalion (4IBIB), 4th Infantry Division, was killed by gunmen in front a Nissan Frontier pickup which contained Tamano's fiancée Hilda.

Tamano and Bora sustained multiple gunshot wounds and died on the spot.

The family of Tamano have brought to double murder charges before the City Prosecutor of Cagayan de Oro against Mangotara.

The complaint said Mangotara, in a fit of jealousy and fueled by unproved, reporting he had an affair with his wife Radiana, the incumbent Rapid mayor. He was a childhood friend of the Tamano children.

But Hadimay Bokir Tamano, brother of Sultir and a detective for special cousenos of the Department of Justice, denied the "love affair" angle, saying Mangotara was bent on killing Sultir—a bloody clash of weapons erected he prevented insult on land.


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(From left to right) Andrew Bray, Globe Chief Operating Officer; Arun Kwan, Zeitbit Technologies Project Manager; Amor Sison, President of Convergage Solutions Philippines, Inc.; Mario Domingo, Globe Head for the Services Creation Division and Ferdi dela Cruz, Globe Consumer Business Group Head

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# OPINION

## De-commissioning

EDITORIAL

THE DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT TO SUSpend the warrants of arrest issued by the Senate against the top officials of the Presidential Commission on Good Government last week did not come as a surprise. In fact, it seemed only the prudent thing to do.

Prudent, and predictable. The Senate even seemed to have anticipated the suspension, allowing PCGG Chairman Camilo Sabio to return home before his habeas corpus hearing at the high court, without benefit of a Senate guard. His release could be read as a tacit acknowledgement by the Senate that the Court would favor suspension—and also as a tactical way for senators to save prestige face.

And so it turned out. When the Court issued its decision, there was no one languishing in the senators' detention facility to embarrass the Senate.

A photograph published last week, showing the PCGG commissioners in curious stages of prayer during a thanksgiving Mass held to celebrate their return to the agency, evokes the relief the commissioners felt almost palpable. Their relief is certainly understandable, and not at all unsympathetic.

It is, however, merely temporary. The commissioners read the law wrong; they are advancing a dubious right. They choose players them on the wrong side of history.

Any law must be understood in its proper context. To discuss the provisions of Executive Order No. 1, which created the PCGG in 1986, without regard for the revolutionary character of the ousting authority, is to mislead one's self and the public. But that is exactly what Sabio and his fellow commissioners have chosen to do.

To espouse the immunity offered in the EO, without the slightest acknowledgement that previous commitments had not, in fact, enjoyed that immunity, is to live in an imaginary world of one's own making. But that is exactly where Sabio and his fellow commissioners reside.

Twenty years after it was created, the PCGG has outlived the last history reserves for individuals and institutions that have outlived their usefulness. It has forgotten what it was originally about. The fight Sabio and his fellow commissioners have chosen to pick does not, in fact, responsory duties to recover the ill-gotten wealth accumulated and then hidden away by the Marcoses and their cronies. Instead, the legal issue they have chosen to make their legacy on is lack of accountability—the very climate that corrupted the republic in Marcos' time and created the need for the PCGG in the first place.

In other words, the commissioners have not only read the law wrong; they are using their erroneous interpretation to advance a dubious and non-existent right. Non-existent, because the Constitution of 1987 effectively changed the course of the EO. Dubious, because the claim is fundamentally undemocratic.

If the commissioners' assertion is correct, it raises at least value, that they cannot be held accountable for any of their actions. The very notion is anathema to a working democracy.

We look to the Supreme Court to place the necessary emphasis, once again, on the essential principle that governs all public service: It is a public trust.

## Is more really merrier?

VIEWPOINT

Jaime L. Mercado

NOT WHEN YOU'RE FINANCIALLY STRAPPED while kids keep you out of bed, food and breakfast, says a new edition of data from 74 Philippine provinces.

"A young population assures," asserts the new Asia Pacific Policy Center study "Population-Growth Revisited: Metro Evidence from the Philippines." And "more is not necessarily merrier."

Dennis Mapa, research director of the University of the Philippines School of Statistics, who brought provincial data from 1995 to 2000 to prepare what books—or vintage—income.

In the 10-year period, most provinces found their incomes increased, on average, a paltry 1.6 percent. It'll take about 50 years before average (real) income per person doubles, "the study says. "Most people will not experience doubling of real income in their lifetime."

Some provinces posted more than 5 percent growth. But "roughly two-thirds of provinces had growth rate of the world's poorest countries."

In 2000, Mapa and UP School of Economics' Arsenio Balisacan examined incomes in 66 countries. Between 1975 and 2000, they found, the paths of "Asia's development stars"—Thailand and the Philippines—"have largely diverged. In 1975, the Philippines' population was 43 million, slightly larger than Thailand's 41 million. Their economies modified at random at 3.5 percent plus yearly. Breakdown hold. Philippine gross domestic product then was almost twice Thailand's. But over the next 25 years, Filipino incomes grew only 2.6 times—"underwhelming when compared to Thailand's eight times," noted Mapa.

By 2000, Filipino per head income would top $1,000. Albeit they have infinitely rare. "But a 40% lapse in income likelihood [from] an income to $2,499, and "determinants have overtaken us by them."

The economic gap tilts in the disfavor of Thais and Filipinos. Out of every 100 Filipinos, 46 escape below the $2-a-day poverty line; the UN Human Development Report reveals. It's 16 for Thais.

One reason is Thailand's ongoing "demographic transition," the process where fewer births and fewer deaths result in slower population growth. Japan completed its "demographic transition." It is on going in Indonesia and Thailand. But half of today's Thailand's population is 931 million (by mid-2005).

In contrast, the "demographic transition" never got off the starting block here. "No province here has undergone demographic transition," notes the Population Center Foundation-backed study. Its Philippine population topped 82.8 million in 2000 (and is 86.7 million today).

Tumultuous why "demographic dividends," which Thailand cashed. Out of every 100 workers who enroll, 94 Thais reach Grade 5; only 76 Filipinos do. Skilled health personnel attend 66 percent of Thai child births compared to 60 percent here. One Overall 1000 collaborate states, 294 were Thais and 270 Filipinos.

Had the Philippines followed Thailand's population growth path, Mapa and Balisacan estimate) that 4.65 million Filipinos would have broken free of the poverty threshold. "This should be enough to get serious about the relationship between population and development."

In the current study, the author econometric model gauges the impact of population on income in 74 provinces. Seed county and household poverty. The 74 provinced from Ilocos, in the north, to Maguindanao in the south. Assigns in the west to Samar in the east.

Focus of analysis were young dependents (14 years and below) with their heavy call on resources. In our provinces, 48 percent were youngsters compared to Thailand's 28 percent. Other dependents are elders "invisibles" (among here reflecting electricity to supplies, sanitation rebates and telephone.

Among 40 provinces with the fewest dependents were Cavite, Rizal, Batangas and Camiguin. They were used as a yardstick to determine "what could have been the income growth picture" with fewer dependents. Some findings:

—Having 1 percent fewer young dependents increases demand on resources, and jacks up personal per head income by 0.5 percent. Preliminary incomes would have risen from P37,443 to P39,963. "This would mean an increase of 6 percent in annual average per capita income."

—Fewer births, fewer sick line, as well as fewer illnesses, had large chances of young dependents. If these three had fewer dependents, Caucasians North Cotabato would achieve P5,297 higher; Camarines Sur's P2,764 more, and Isabela's extends P2,151 more.

—A comparison between Misamis Occidental and Cotabato finds 30 percent more "about 40 percent of their growth difference" pivotal to varied differences in numbers of dependents.

—Under the status quo . . . the poverty head count in 2003 was estimated at 20.6 million Filipinos. This is over a quarter of the total population.

The low dependents yardstick, however, would increase per household size by P2,127. This would slash the poverty head count down to 17.6 million. And 3.02 million individuals would be better off—"surely a large number that merits serious consideration."

Population is not the only reason for the poor performance of a majority of provinces," Mapa says. But the term was by the econometric model, it show the dependency burden is "a robust determinant" of income growth.

The 2000 census poverty analysis concluded that "the Philippines pays a high price for its unchecked population growth," Mapa said. That is reiterated in the 2000 within country study.

The call is for robust population policy backed by strong government support. "Strong populations can be a powerful driver to the child, now to socioeconomic overview"

(E-mail: jaime_mercado@yahoo.com.ph)

## Resurrection

FOREIGN COMMENT

AFTER ANNOUNCING THAT HE WAS "LOOKING FORWARD" AND resigning as governor in August 2004, then virtually disappeared from the public eye. Jim McGreevey's recent action has begun. He broke in his space, and then a man who never stops running—a "politically honest" (!!) called "The Confession" and reports edly details the former governor's struggle with his homosexuality, his heterosexuality, his Catholic upbringing and his political ambition.

But the McGreevey story—the real story, at least as far as New Jersey taxpayers and voters should be concerned—isn't really about his homosexuality. It's about incompetence and corruption, both a great measure of arrogance and hubris.

McGreevey didn't have to resign from office because he is gay. He got his lover on the state payroll, in an undemanding job the state was patently unqualified for. This, when that person's attitudes, McGreevey gave the state a different job as an aide with undefined responsibilities—at $110,000 a year.

The state was incapable of giving a straight answer about anything. And now he's going to be "gainfully employed"!

Finally, who cares?

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## Death goes on

THERE'S THE RUB

Gwendolyn de Quiroz

I DEDICATED TO WRITE ABOUT THE MURDERS OF Jesse Glenn last week, Glenn, Ayesha Gano's close to security for the last couple of decades, was gunned down the other Saturday as he and some friends drank coffee at a Shell station in Fort Bonifacio's prepared to motorbiking for Superior. I didn't know if the killing was politically or criminally motivated. All my instincts told me it was a political killing, but I decided that prudence was the better part of outrage and waited how much of the same sudden revelation that Glenn was engaged off by partners to claim he had pissed off Ilocos was also at one point in charge of getting business permits exhibited, style that ironically spurred resentment.

Home came, though the authorities have long by been making noises to that effect, he quit by way of resignation. There were suggestions. For example, Glenn was gunned down by people he had ripped off during the election bids. (I "withdrawal of support" by military officers. Personally, he had gotten money but failed to deliver on his promises. That such stories with it the subtle suggestion that Ramy himself was involved in military officers' "withdrawal of support" or what Raul Gonzalez mercifully calls coup attempt.

Which adds much to issues, or more to issues, this government no longer limiting to its real what it can accomplish by "quiet, decisive" means. Given the details of a bloody plot to assassinate those close to TV looked completely open, intrusive and gruesome, he had lost a close friend, he said, saw who on more than one occasion had saved his life—Ramy now has to reckon as with and he be pungent of hunting at quite a level of sense. Or not hunting at all. If he should be sent to a place just hunting.

As things stand today, this looks every inch like a political killing. And the unyielding thing is only: How and not and how and more conclusive matter. Then again, he said that yesterday. But I can it's in a political killing, then it ain't the same as the killings that have been taking place in this country on an already mind-boggling scale. It adds whole new dimensions to those, which bodes ill not just for the health of democracy, or what little is left of it today, but for the health of being. Something, because foreign who happen to devise a rule by rules the rules did and rule for.

At the very least, the killing of Glenn brings the escalating mayhem right in the doorstep of Metro Manila. Or never mind shooting right at the house, or gas, of Lakas-CMD president Gloria Arroyo at the corner of Metro Manila than the Red. It is not a place you associate with mayhem, other than the aesthetic kind, or the kind that you decide to inflict on themselves. So for the killings of both journalists and political operatives, normally of Bicol's Albay, have been taking place mainly in Metro Manila. Yes, even the killings of activists. Sure and then, you have no sense of killed, or abducted, in the fringes of Metro Manila, but never at the heart of it. And never in the by-laws, high-profile, way.

The reason for this is not that limited power-seekers in the provinces are more corrupt than those in the capital. The reason for this is that not even a limited government wants to close down an open democracy in something like this. A killing of a provincial or party-list representative in Metro Manila (Gen. Roncesgrave, Espinosa) may capsize way, contribute to the Bikol Commission. There was no good declaration between communists and party-list representatives; by backtracked only when he was grilled on that point) would open the floodgates to international scorn and scrap, piling more heaps of coin for CPA, to, to, to the latest to-be-added-to-the-list country. Some countries have already issued unofficially shirty against the killings in the Philippines. And to which found out in Ami Latina senior attaché, where she was famous for the glamor of he dead whenever she went, you can become an international pariah for it.

But there's always a first time, and I've to warn Gwapal that if any bad was going to happen to this reporter, which is by ringing the killings in Metro Manila, it was going to happen under GMA's watch. Or lack of it. This one hunters no kinds, this one has no excuse-bunch.

At the very least, the killing of Glenn brings the escalating mayhem right at the doorstep of the "opposition," by which I mean not just the political figures opposed to the administration but everyone critical of GMA. I was about to say it gets under the killings on to political figures but I don't know what political figures, even those found in Metro Manila, are there anymore. Most have been co-opted, even if they weren't to the government. I've always thought this was a mistake.

Glenn, of course, went himself on opposition figure, but he is an after opposition opposition figure who to Ramy Ramy's camp is at least associated with the very good and the very bad. Glenn, the killing a message to opposition figures that to be afraid of opposition? or coup, pick your poison, that is to talk there.

And if that was happen to Ramy that can happen to anyone.

I've been saying it again and again. We don't have a culture of killing even now, they still get worse. We do not rage against the dying of the light because it is somebody else's light and not our own, we will wake up one day to hear the snuffers of light loudly knocking at our door through words that singularly denote happening, equally and hauntingly scary. It's worse or, like guns on. Life does not go on with tragedy and how complacent.

Death does.

# Crucial arguments before SC

TODAY IS A CRUCIAL DAY FOR CHARTER change, as both sides in the issue of people's initiative give their oral arguments before the Supreme Court. Solicitor General Eduardo Kuchara and petitioner Atty. Jesus Santiago will argue for the local government executive and Sigue ng Bayan, respectively, against Senate tolicitor Raul Lambino and other lawyers. Lambino say the signature rules will be less. Adam Aquino and Bayan's Ma. Ressa Oreta are representing the lawyers and the issues are numerous.

The arguments on signature/area coverage systems, the mechanism proposed to be submitted by a referendum, the people's initiative, can be summed up in a few sentences. We've read the petitioners' memoranda and have not worked for less than 24 hours, including the hours we'd have to sleep. Nothing to implement English as medium of instruction from Grade 1 upwards needs to be made Filipino more globally competitive. The senators have been working on it. Because we have not enough time to read all the 24 memos that anyone dares have to file limiting two hundred or thousand, which, under the Supreme Court's guidelines, we are supposed to read before the Supreme Court's tribunal.

Let me just 1 verse about descendants of Filipino migrant plantation workers, who made good in Hawaii politics, most notably former Gov. Benjamin Cayetano. There are also many Filipino descendants in the Hawaii state senate. Senator. Dr. Sam Hakanaga and Br. Teresita Ramos (the latter is the half-sister of well-known New York-based Filipino writer Nvick Joaquin Roces), both with the Department of Indo-Pacific Languages of the University of Hawaii, where they teach in various languages of Pacific countries. There's also Arthur Agbayani, Hawaii's combined wrestling national selection champion for many Filipino descendants.

# Vaccines for adults

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

DO YOU STILL REMEMBER THOSE DAYS IN grade school, when we were all hustled to the clinic in the nearest town to take our vaccination shots? We were lined up before the doctor or nurse, clutching in our hands our health cards or record books issued by our parents, and waited for our turn. One by one, we were summoned, and among a few classmates, though the shots didn't seem like such a big thing it is more fitting to refer to as such some endure a bout.

Those shots, though, are usually limited to the only BCG (a measles) shots—the angles of childhood vaccinations. Just talk about Aurora, an Australian nurse, "vaccinations" against tetanus for older people, like the said parents, and the list more serious illnesses. Coming soon (I hope) is the next PPV vaccine, though this time it may prove much more useful for our children and grandchildren, no longer to be effective for adults, women of a certain age.

I'd never given much thought to adult vaccines until my husband and I became diabetics. Which also means, as such older adults are more susceptible to certain illnesses, such as the "immune-compromised," we could be other children's health threats that have been weakened by the disease. Diabetes makes us vulnerable to infections, and worse, makes it difficult for our immune system to fight and get rid of infections, such as the flu. That is, the flu in humans; could mutate into various illness.

A drawn-out bout with bronchitis recently drove home the point for us. When doctors, I should say medicines (oral and plenty of them) to fight off the infection, the tests, the hospital room hospitalized and chest pain escalated quickly and it took medicine over weeks to get back on my feet.

I'll tell you about I began giving serious thought

# Islamicizing Malaysia

WORLD VIEW

Mazwah Mohamad

MALAYSIAN SOCIETY IS DEEPLY DIVIDED BY a fundamental question. It doesn't affect the many should-all Muslim, or Islamic state? In essence, can our religious and ethnic groups give Malaysia a distinctly multicultural character? Or will the Islamic constitution provides room for arguments or both sides of the question, and the authority to make the call upon hotly contested issues.

Behind by a group of experts in 1957, under the supervision of 50 commissioners, British rulers, the constitution includes two seemingly contradictory clauses. On the one hand, article 3 states that Islam is the religion of the federation, and that only Muslims can be prescribed to Muslims. On the other hand, Article 11 guarantees freedom of religion for all. As a result, Malaysia has developed itself both a pluralist civil code, which is applied nationally, and Islamic laws, which is applied only to Muslims in personal and family matters.

Recently, however, some Muslim groups have pressed the government to prohibit Muslims in Islamic state, on the basis of article 3 and the Islamic principle that only Muslims can govern. They would like Muslims to be governed by Islamic law.

We have, since we both need to resolve the constitutional issue. For example, if a Muslim decides to convert to Christianity, he should be handled outside the legal system, as conversion records would be ended. Today, however, every Malaysian must declare a religious affiliation, and a change of religion must be approved by a judge in a religious court. This has made it difficult for citizens to leave Islam without forfeiting the things of value through the legal process.

The country is also divided on the line of rule between civil law (also known here for and between religious studies Kamarul Ali, who are trying to change their religious affiliation through the legal system. Muslim professional organizations and the Islamic opposition political party hold the view that renunciation of Islam is punishable by death. Likewise, the defense by Malaysian civil reform movement of individuals' freedom of conscience has been denounced by some religious leaders as attacks on Islam.

At present, Malaysia has no law that would impose the death penalty on apostates. Yet public discussions have been framed to highlight this Islamic aspect. If the apostasy debate is not managed, there will be a more violent side of Muslims-to-other battle. The immediate goal is to keep the country from allowing Lina Joy or Kamariah Ali to convert.

Messages by other democratic civil society groups to debate the issue in peaceful public forums have been thwarted by threats of violence from a coalition of Muslim non-governmental organizations called Perkasa. Recently, Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, the former prime minister, urged Muslims to convert from the faith peacefully.

Malaysia's right to be secured. Many indigenous, minority political parties in Malaysia have supported the Barisan Nasional (National Front) coalition, an exclusively Muslim community Malay political parties allowed ethnic Malays to retain their claims to control over land, language and religion. All attempts to reduce Malay influence

in Malaysia. PAS's an estimable $70 million endowment fund, it's the only major museum in North America with a Philippine gallery. The core of that museum was donated by Jovy Baldoz Dimitman, architect Leonard Coil's wife a longtime business school of the Associated Press in Manila. The academy also boasts of the largest Roman relief collection outside Rome.

In addition to his conservation work, Edilo also spends time in public, multi-lecturer teaching Asian art appreciation to Asian students at the conference in Metro Adelle, 50, Ayala says strongly about educating Filipino racial pride in Rotarians. In fact he's actually an opposed to being in Australia in 2008 gathering the Filipino-movement-of painters Juan Luna and Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo, who is with the Australia city governments, and Federico Beltran, a solicitor-lawyer who serves as labor secretary to Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle's cabinet.

After earning the government Filipino in Hawaii a Ephraim Tabuke" Asst., the fourth of seven children of Industrial Artist Ito Ignacio F. Hawaii Jose and wife Tessie. Edilo works as conservator for many paintings in the Honolulu Academy of Arts, one of only 300 art museums accredited by the nation's leading under 1 Japanese avant-de Asian conservation movement from the late '70s to 1993. Edilo then put up his own successful company in Honolulu Gallery consult San Francisco, employing Japanese, Chinese and other Oriental technicians. Her work involved restoring the conservation work of various museums around the world, which he found most satisfying and financially rewarding, for after 11 years he felt burned out. When the offer from the Honolulu Academy came once again, he grabbed it and moved his wife, Lola, and young daughters Eva and Isabel to Hawaii.

The Honolulu branch was not perfect for him. Founded in 1927 by Anne Rice Cooke, who wanted to popularize the arts in Hawaii, its source of location came from an incredible donation of about 20,000 Asian pieces collected over the years by Richard Caine, an American businessman who ran in Goa. Douglas MacArthur's post-war staff

# Labyrinth

MY FRIEND, RIZ BOK "BAMBOO" ALBAN, WAS KILLED late July 21, 2006. He was shot to death by armed men aboard a bus in Bonifacio the day after his birthday. He was a student leader who spoke out against injustice in not just in his home province but even as a freshman at the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

Twenty years earlier, another man, Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, Jr., was shot on the tarmac of the Manila International Airport. Ninoy's death ignited a powerful, revolutionary movement that has become the stuff that legends and democracies are made of.

While my mind is swimming with thoughts of how the Abdullahs of Thrace, goddess of law and justice, should rule her

YOUNG BLOOD

Eddie Bonifacio Tayzon

*We seem to know what the young are thinking about. What are they thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twenty-something bunch.—Ed.*

state and would her moral regarding the unjustified deaths of Ninoy as well as other victims of extrajudicial killings and wondering about the state of the nation and the countenance of events, I am also wondering how to motivate myself to study and direct my thoughts for the short term. I know everyone is not interested in Law—and, my term sometimes, into relationship of procrastination, with my initial to resolve such both books and cases. Still, I can't help but get lost in the numerous, winding passageways littered with the remains of other thoughts.

There are, for example, include what to do with my law video blog given to its almost "problem" length (although a few meetings videos I'm too lazy to count), a newsletter Abdullah's readers, sans the waiter's...has since suggested that I sell it to research investments to help defray my enrollment tuition fee. Another has even suggested that those video clips of me speaking in true courtroom fluency (ahh) before a room mesmerized by nothing it to look for Love is for researchers ways for kids working with comics. Here, I took notes when that fiscals have to resolve on mapping special spells and, as it as Millennium of Oct plus student's periphery a lecturer had to take all the courses of Criminal Law. Another says I have become a specialist of technology 1000 words of trepidation for a chance to help alleviate one of the worst environmental disasters in our country. Whose, then, should I employ first? Would it really make a difference in choosing on the more excited by the biggest problem and ignore the "problem" of Riz?

Another disorder in my mental labyrinth is filled with my constantly growing anxiety over such day as my new school, who has taught at a modified Socratic method of how to go on the hour (or the more) to every legal conference in writing. Every day, I stand in front of the statue of Ignacio de Loyola, gaze into those eyes of wood, trying to find the answer, and I wish a different course taken years of teach in some subsidized fundamental techniques. The first question I entered under my breath on the first day of school was about my doubt if this whole setting "Socratic teaching, spaced dialog, non-intrusive presentation of a legal problem" was the most effective and traditional of teaching. Now (and resumed for Others) are the concepts of intellectual discovery, somewhat consciousness and social awareness among young people as meaningless as the development of mature morphology?

I asked a professor in my sophomore to my school dean about my doubts about Law 101 the craft, he answered something about their pioneer organization doing something about it. What exactly? He couldn't elaborate.

I asked my wife what she knew who we had no dreams. He mumbled something about an excuse to party.

I asked a classmate

# Notes on Hungary and Thailand

THERE IS AT LEAST A COUPLE OF RECENT developments around the world that should be of interest to our compatriots for different reasons.

The first one was the ouster of Thailand's Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, upon the initiative of the Thai military. Note that this happened in a neighboring country which has a parliamentary form of government. Note further that this form of government is being promoted in the Philippines as one that is less prone to military adventurism or coup d'etats. The "Thai experience" clearly showed how wrong—very wrong—the advocates of a parliamentary system are.

The other one was the protests in Hungary after Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany's Frank admission that his government had lied to the people just to win the elections. The lying ranged from-tends of thousands and since then prime minister's admission, they have been flooding the streets of Budapest and calling for his resignation.

Thaksin had the courage to admit himself to the people in an election and Gyurcsany had the humility to admit that he had lied. What do their brave acts say about Gloria Macapagal Arroyo?

Thaksin had no choice but to accept his fate while Gyurcsany clings to his seat like Gibi does.

One wonders if a military coup could happen in the Philippines these days like it did in Thailand.

The conditions in the Philippines are ripe. GMA and her dilatory bureaucracy, by defying orders, ignoring Supreme Court decisions, making a mockery of the formers as a Swallow and equal branch of government, and persisting against the will of the governed, among others.

I would not mind if an epidemic of military decides to overthrow an illegitimate government, jail all corrupt officials and officers, and then work for a return to normalcy after making sure that qualified patriotic civilians get to run the next government.

But what I fear most is a takeover by military officials to whom GMA is indebted and on whose back she has been riding to keep the presidency for herself. They could decide to take over the government as their appetite for power continues to be whetted.

The "Gang" generals are holding vital positions in the military today but their days are numbered as their retirement age draws nearer. They may not want to take away for less than junior officers may not look kindly at their "unpublicmindly" activities.

A military coup could be bloody. Arroyo's favorite spinbox Michael Defensor once warned. We can only hope that should there be a coup, it would not shed a drop of blood.

We also hope that if a coup could run out well in Bangkok, it does better in Manila—like Edsa Uno! 20 years ago.

**—RAMON J. MITRA, Cebu**
**Ed@sunga@aol.com**

## Why is government insisting it owes Japanese firm billions?

LETTERS

THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (DOF) and the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) on the settlement of the latter's obligations to Japan Petroleum Exploration Co. Ltd. (Japex) is a clear case of government insisting it owes Japanese firm billions.

Under the agreement, PNOC will pay Japex $50 million (P2.5 billion) in cash and transfer to the latter its 40-percent interest in the Malampaya gas project.

The DOF, however, has refused to sign the agreement, arguing that PNOC has no obligation to Japex.

The DOF's position is based on the fact that PNOC has already recovered its investment in the Malampaya project, which is now generating revenues for the government.

Under the agreement, PNOC will transfer to Japex its 40-percent interest in the Malampaya project, which is now generating revenues for the government

Across the NATION

**IN THE KNOW**

AGRANULOCYTOSIS or rare hospital fever is this week's killer. Out of the blood comes caused by the bacteria Serratia marcescens. Those he/she are hospitalized by respiratory depression from the virus and threat of infection/sepsis. Sometimes you're admitted from here to 30 days. Meningococcemia occurs more often than agranulocytosis. Symptoms: rapid development of high fever, headache, vomiting, nausea, delirium, seizures, coughs, rashes and severe skin lesions that may lead to gangrene.

**DJED L. Escamilla**
*Inquirer Research*

# Lawmaker faces 14 document falsification cases, other raps

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—CITY OFFICIALS have filed 14 cases of falsification of public documents on some P50 million worth of purchases and a case of violation of audit rules on contracts amounting to P54 million against Pampanga Rep. Reynaldo Aquino, this city's former mayor.

This was disclosed by Mayor Oscar Rodriguez in a press conference on Monday here.

Filed at the Department of Justice and the Office of Ombudsman, respectively, the cases sought to clear the city government of accountability in the alleged dubious transactions made demands by suppliers and contractors for payments, Rodriguez said.

"We don't want to be charged with malfeasance for not doing anything. We also want to assert the presidential Local Government Code on rules in financial transactions," he said as he ruled out political motivations in the filing of the cases.

Tendered through his mobile phone, Aquino told the Inquirer that the allegations were "nonsense."

"Being filed after two years, there's probably political motivation and harassment there," said the lawmaker who served for three terms before he ran for Congress in 2004.

According to Aquino, Rodriguez pre-arrived him in "a political civil in the future." The two used to be allies but still belong to the ruling coalition Lakas-KNP.

"I welcome this development. It would help settle once and for all the issues raised against me," he added.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez ordered the hearing on the falsification charges at the DOJ in Manila. These were originally filed before the city prosecutor's office.

Rodriguez spoke for the first time on the cases to calm concerns by the safety of city administrative hostile lives, one of the complainants in the cases.

Both reported getting death threats and were accused by a rebel reluctant as a New People's Army leader. The information was believed fed by Aquino's former leaders during an anti-terrorist seminar here in August.

Lore strongly denied the allegation.

"I am seeking protection by disclosing to the media the cases I have filed only after all I am receiving in the city's crusade for good public governance," said Lore, who is also an associate of the Initiative for Solidarity in Asia.

According to Rodriguez, the falsified documents covered handover from their own hotel in the 2004 budget. At least 20 more similar cases are to be filed, he said.

The alleged audit violations covered payments for items or services that were cut in the annual budgets from 2001 to the first calendar in 2004.

Rodriguez said he would not have discovered the supposed irregularities had not the COA detailed supporting documents for its post-audit work on some P500 million worth of alleged questionable transactions.

The checks were signed by Aquino, he said. A supplemental budget submitted for the violations of the national procurement law is due for filing also at the Office of Ombudsman, Rodriguez said.

In July, Aquino blocked the plans of the city government to obtain a P1.29-billion loan from the Land Bank of the Philippines for the construction of 27 two-story school buildings and rehabilitation of the old public market.

The city government got a temporary restraining order and two writs of preliminary injunction to enjoin monitoring by the bank. Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

## DOH says toll from meningo 9 this year

BACOLOD CITY—HEALTH OFFICIALS reported that some people have died of meningococcemia so far this year but they are quick to point out that the disease is still manageable.

Dr. Myrna Cabotaje, regional director of Department of Health-Western Visayas, said the 45 meningococcemia reported this year would be attributed to the government's aggressive sanitation campaign.

She said those who contracted the disease failed to take the anti-meningococcemia vaccination.

"Under the infectious disease control program, we can reassure the public that we are ready to deal with meningococcemia," Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said in a forum here on Thursday.

Dr. Felicidad Ganga, officer in charge of the Negros health department's epidemiology and surveillance unit, said the number of cases this year is no indication that the disease is under increased compared to 2004 and 2005 when the disease reached 100 cases.

When the disease was reported in the last quarter of 2004, almost one case was admitted daily in the Negros General Hospital and Medical Center.

"We were able to control the disease from the very start. This is why we have smaller number of cases now. Our health workers are more skilled and prepared to handle meningococcemia," Gonzales Division Cabaret, Inquirer Northern Luzon

SHELTER
A boy rides on the plates of a bulldozer in Bulo City after its was prepared by names from pipesmoke.

## Evacuation continues due to oil spill

By Nestor T. Burgos Jr.
*Inquirer Visayas*

SUBIC VALENCIA, GUIMARAS—The number of residents forced to leave their homes because of toxic fumes from the oil sludge continues to rise as officials quarantine the affected villages.

The Guimaras provincial social welfare and development office reported that the total evacuees reached 208 families or 1,111 persons as of Sept. 20.

The local government evacuated the residents from five villages of Buenavista Valencia and two villages in Nueva.

These include 67 families and 326 persons in evacuation centers and 141 families and 785 persons who are staying with their relatives.

The evacuation started last Aug. 30 after results of an sampling showed exceptional of toxicity of the environment to the environment hit by the oil sludge.

The residents depend on the government and private donors for food.

Brenda Tayacan, 40, said her family receives P.A kg of rice and six cans of sardines as their ration for three days. She has four children aged 2 to 9 years old.

The officials brought them from their homes along the coast of Barangay Tando last week and transferred them to the makeshift quarters at the perimeter of the barangay plaza. Twenty five other evacuees stay in the plaza and its two storm hotels it.

## US colonel says RP gov't winning war on Sayyaf

JOLO, JOLO—THE PHILIPPINE government is winning the war against Sayyaf groups like the Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah, a US military official pointed out said.

Col. James Linder, commander of the joint special operations task force, said the success in the drive against the terror groups could be seen in four back southern cooperation with the military and police.

Linder said continue now up off and terrorists about the location of the terror groups.

American troops have been helping at least nine battalions of Filipino soldiers who are involved in the operations against the Abu Sayyaf which formed or kept it.

Yesterday, United States Ambassador Kristie Kenney visited Sulu and Tawaran from where Linder is based.

Kenney said the US government is committed to help the Philippines fight terrorism.

"I am assuring the people of Sulu that we will help them in their fight against terrorism," she said.

The military has suffered casualties in its ongoing offensive against the Abu Sayyaf. It has attempted meeting strong resistance from the terrorist group. Julie C. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

## RP lantern makers target markets in US

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Samples of glass and steel lanterns produced in this Pampanga capital have been submitted by the city government for certification by the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) in a bid to open the United States market to local craftsmen.

Ferdinand Cayton, chief of the city's human resources development department, said the certification was "will to the process by the UL." A UL mark signifies compliance with accepted internationally recognized safety standards.

"The whole decorative product has yet to get the UL seal," he said.

Cayton said that for the ornamental celebrations of Filipino Christmas, which is slated to be held in December this year in San Francisco, the city government would use UL-certified components for the lanterns's wiring factors.

The city would hopefully convince the US Homeland Security to let the use lanterns to allow the entry of several giant lanterns that were chosen as symbols for the big Filipino-American event, he said.

Cayton said Councilor Alex Pania, who are both engineers, led the team working the UL trademark. The lantern industry, originally a religious art that some 500 craftsmen in the city have turned into a backyard enterprise since the 1970s, has helped to transform into large-scale export due to standards restrictions.

Most of the parts and components, especially the wire through which lights blink in colorful patterns, are mostly imported from local manufacturers, Cayton said.

The homegrown enterprise gives employment to some 10,000 families, mostly during the business or slack hours in through September.

The multimillion-peso industry produces between 50,000 and 100,000 lantern per year that are sold all over the country. Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

A VENDOR assembles his banners along the Macapagal Highway in Pasay city, Tuesday.
FOOTBRIDGE BOMBING AND EXPLOSION

## 3 cultists arrested for illegal guns

CALAMBA CITY—POLICEMEN raided the houses of members of a cult in Barangay Parian here and arrested three of them for possession of unlicensed firearms just before dawn Monday.

Supt. Roland Ramos, Calamba police chief, identified the arrested suspects as Leonardo Villegas, 35, Michael Rubio, 21, and Jessie Melgar, 41.

The three were alleged members of a group called Bilong Rebol whose members believe they are invincible from bullets and bladed weapons.

A police team headed by Ramos raided at least nine houses in the Barangay Compound at around 5 a.m. after receiving several complaints from the residents about the alleged audio, chanting-like practice sess.

Ramos said they confiscated from the suspects a caliber .22 rifle, a .38-cal. revolver, a .45-cal. pistol, two improvised shotguns and several rounds of ammunition for the firearms. Marvin Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

# Rice fields offer hope for Bontoc tourism

By CF Espiritu
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BONTOC, MT. PROVINCE—With the deteriorating condition of the world famous Banaue rice terraces in Ifugao, this province is banking on its distinctly carved "payoh" rice fields to lure tourists.

These payoh and Ifugao's distinct culture and tradition are what the staging of the Lang-ay Festival in April and the Aw-ating Festival in September wishes to highlight as the main components to tourists.

But while aiming to become a top tourist destination in Northern Luzon, the people of Mt. Province must know what they really want their land to become since it's in the land where their culture is perpetually rooted.

## Unique

The capital town and seat of government boasts of its uniquely carved payoh. It is unique in the sense that instead of well-supported rice paddies, the fields are painstakingly carved around hills.

Villagers themselves express awe at how the stones stacked the mountains and were used in the paddies.

The fourth-class municipality has 16 barangays covering a land area of 27,200 hectares. Bontoc Central is abundant with picturesque payoh. The village has four barangays—Samoki, Calutit, Bontoc Ili, and Poblacion.

"Yes, we also have rice terraces. They just need to be discovered," Gov. Maximo Dalog said, adding that 10 percent of the province's land is devoted to rice fields.

## Livelihood

The payoh serve as the primary source of livelihood of the villagers. They can also be potential tourist attractions that can boost the town's economy and tourism industry.

A growing number of payoh owners in Bontoc proper have opted to convert portions of their farmlands into residential lots and commercial areas.

> "Yes, we also have rice terraces. They just need to be discovered"

## 'House terraces'

This is evident in Samoki, according to Barrio Mayor Alfonso Kiw-ong. He said he could harvest that in 10 years or even earlier, the village would be filled with "house terraces, instead of rice terraces."

"We could not control it. They own the lands," he said.

With the growing urbanization of Bontoc, age-old customs and traditions that distinguish the town villagers from the rest of the region are slowly dying, if not completely lost.

USUAL sights in the "payoh" or rice terraces in Bontoc, Mountain Province.

# DENR forms fact-finding team to probe rape of Sierra Madre

LUZENA CITY—THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT and Natural Resources has formed a team to investigate the extent and causes of the continuing destruction of the Sierra Madre mountain ranges in Quezon province.

The team was formed upon the request of the Movies Bukas (Bud, Kidlat, Dinatal Siakol) Multi-Stakeholders Forest Management Council (MBBFMC).

Jay Lim, forest protection program coordinator of Tinggil Kalikasan (TK), a nationwide public interest environmental law office, said the team would be led by Environment Undersecretary Jay Ganzon.

The TK joined the MSMBFMC in a dialogue earlier with Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes.

"There's really a need for an impartial team to conduct the investigation," said Lim.

The MSMBFMC is a multisectoral council composed of local officials, military officials, nongovernment organizations, indigenous peoples and Church leaders from Southern Quezon.

Infanta Mayor Grace Amorica chairs the council.

In a resolution, the council said that "despite the DENR's imposition of 'No Cutting' (total log ban) in the region to prevent forest degradation ... there are reported and documented cutting at work in the Sierra Madre."

"There is a pressing need to stop the perpetuation of continuous harvesting activity [an violation and] enforcers," the council said.

It said an exhaustive investigation of various "dubious incidents" would lead the way to measures and strategies to stop the rape of the Sierra Madre.

The group said it had found several cases pointing to the involvement of environment officials in illegal logging. It said the most obvious would be this way.

Newly cut trees are passed off as retrieved drifted logs and the environment officials accompany documents to make it appear that the logs were just retrieved and not newly cut.

A source said the military in the area had documents that would unmask the persons behind the illegal logging.

"The Army officials are just waiting for the formal probe to start to submit the... documents," the informant said.

The MSMBFMC has expressed alarm over continued logging in the Sierra Madre, saying that this threatened residents of Hanunuo.

In November last year, after four successive typhoons, close to 1,000 people died in floods and landslides and millions of pesos worth of property were destroyed in Quezon and Aurora.

The tragedy was traced to massive logging in the Sierra Madre.

Three weeks ago, a multisectoral team, composed of personnel from the DENR Special Anti-Environmental Crime Task Force, the military and the TK combed the mountain ranges and confiscated a total of 131 cubic meters (33,107 board feet) of square logs, lumber and sawn lumber, with an estimated market value of P13 million.

The team, also supported Real Mayor Antonio Bautista in his opposition to a request of Tan Boquet Sawmill Corp., a big time logger based in Aurora, to use his town as exit route in the transshipment of lumber for distribution to Manila and other provinces.

It opposed approbation that the use of Real as a transport channel might also be an excuse for the "technical smuggling" of timber resources from Metro Bolas. Doffie Z. Mollar-Ubi, Inquirer Southern Luzon

# Militant group raises alarm over slays of women leftists

BAGUIO CITY—A women's group here has expressed alarm over the killing of 79 women activists under the Arroyo administration.

In a forum here last week, Imme Nergales-Otaza, secretary general of Innabuyog-Gabriela, blamed the military for most of the killings.

This has moved them, she said, to bring the issue to a commission on the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Cedaw) that was ratified by the Philippine government, according to Otaza.

"All governments, including the Philippine government that signed this human rights convention, are bound to respect, protect and fulfill women's human rights. Specifically, party governments are expected to enact anti-discrimination policies and provide effective mechanisms and remedies where women can redress his rights and violations," she said.

She said that, in many cases, the military is involved in most of the killings.

Otaza said a report presented by Gabriela Women's Party-list Rep. Liza Maza to the Cedaw committee in New York in September highlighted the political killings of women in the Philippines.

The report indicated the government's poor compliance in respecting, protecting and fulfilling the human rights of women, Otaza said.

Records of human rights group Karapatan showed that from 2001 to 2006, 79 political activists were killed. Seventy-eight of those slain were women, said Cye Sevia, a member of Innabuyog-Gabriela. Jhoeter Cadiao, Inquirer Northern Luzon

WOMEN are sometimes at the forefront of protests like this one at the World Bank office in Ortigas against World Bank policies in Third World countries like the Philippines.

# Storm still rages since Aug. 11 sinking of tanker

SHE SITS IN STONE SILENCE ON the dark and chilly sea floor, occasionally sending tiny globules of oil to the surface, yet the storm that the MT Solar 1 whipped up when she sank off Guimaras Island six days ago is raging.

A preliminary report submitted by experts from the firm London Offshore Consultants Ltd. Pte., who had sent down a remote-operated vehicle (ROV) to take video of the sunken tanker, said there was currently the leakage from the vessel, as sighted, was relatively minor."

The experts, who were on board the Japanese research ship Mutsuri Maru, had been commissioned by Divine Corp. and Inspector Reise to explore, estimate how to remove the oil remaining in the Solar 1's tanks. A copy of their report was made available to the business.

The ROV guided from the seabase by the experts, used a video camera to capture certain views of the tanker to reduce the oil leaks.

The report said "the intact upper deck areas, sealed tank lids and closed ventilation valves, as well as the minimal current sighted at the seabed, do not support it (the oil leak) should worsen in the near future."

### If it does not move

"If the vessel remains in its same orientation and position, that is, it does not move, it is unlikely that a greater leakage will occur."

The experts said "factors that might cause increased leakage from the vessel in its present state (are) if the current increases in strength or if the sea temperature increases slightly."

They said, however, that they "need to check whether this is likely or not in this particular area."

They noted that "although the seabed surface is soft mud, and the vessel is on a slope, the lack of any appreciable subsea current and the buildup of material at the aft end of the vessel suggest that further movement is very unlikely."

However, they suggested that "it would be wise to undertake an assessment of stability study, if possible."

### Siphoning work

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, head of Task Force Guimaras, said yesterday Petron's insurer, the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund, had agreed to have the siphoning of the remaining oil in the tanker and would retain this up at its execution meeting in February. But he said preliminary engineering work was set to begin next month. The fund will choose the company that will do the siphoning.

Regional task force head Rafael Garcellanita said last week it would take at least three and a half months to completely siphon the oil, including anchorage needs and a half for the preparations and the equipment to reach the site, and another two months to complete the operation.

"The operation would be complicated and would require special precautionary measures," Garcellanita said, referring to the possibility that if set done right, the operation would leak more oil.

"There is minimal oil leakage," he added. "It comes out every few seconds and it consists of about a one-foot circle, the oil that surfaces."

Because of the reduced leakage, the Coast Guard station chief in Iloilo, Commodore Harold Jacobe, said only one ship had been deployed near the leak site along with three tug boats.

### Apprehensions

Malacañang played down apprehensions by environmentalists in an in-house report that the Coast Guard's use of chemical dispersants to clean up the oil spill was harming marine life.

"The dispersants used are accredited and accepted internationally," said Cruz. "These are not harmful, according to the Philippine Coast Guard."

Added Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye: "The government will ensure that such measures are both environmentally friendly and economically reasonable."

Questioned by senators at a budget hearing yesterday, Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes said his department had nothing to do with the dispersants.

But Reyes later told reporters: "The apprehensions and concern that these dispersants will cause damage is more perception than reality."

He said the dispersants were being applied 24 km from the coastline and not in shallow waters. "So there is no damage, no threat to the environment. The water is wide."

Garcellanita yesterday said in Standard City that the government regulates the use of chemicals used to disperse the oil spill to prevent harm to the environment.

While the government is concentrated on removing the sunken fuel, he said the Coast Guard enforces the rules on the use of chemical dispersants to stop the spill from spreading.

### Pressure to remove oil

But several nongovernment organizations (NGOs), as well as local governments units (LGUs), have continued to pressure government agencies to speed up the removal of the oil.

Time seems to move slower on the surface.

The London-based experts warned: "However, eventually this vessel, if it stays in its same position as seems likely, will break and release the oil over time. This though is unlikely to be a sudden release, rather one that likely is gradual at best. How long (we) cannot estimate at the moment."

Meanwhile, the Solar 1 is merely in silence on the sea floor, occasionally sending tiny blobs of oil to the surface, assaulted of the storm that raged since it in the stormy night and lies grit. With reports from GEC Cabucgayan Jr., Juliet Labog-Javellana and Gerla F Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

# Guimaras wildlife sanctuaries offer hope

From page A1

by Petron to find both short- and long-term solutions to the damage caused by the oil spill from the MT Solar 1 that sank in bad weather on Aug. 11. An estimated half of the 2.19 million liters of industrial fuel oil the tanker was carrying for Petron from Iloilo to Guimaras did but spilled into the sea.

The Silliman team said the oil-affected coves and lagoons displayed "unique geological formations along the western coast of Nueva Valencia like the Chocolate Hills of Bohol."

"These geological formations are heavily covered with mangroves and terrestrial tree species, all of which contribute to the primary productivity of coastal areas by supplying nutrients and organic fertilizers," the experts said.

"They are of special interest because of the biodiversity in them (and) also because they could be used as attractions."

The scientists found the Inabaro-Tinubdo area to be "biologically and geologically unique." They proposed to make it a wildlife refuge to be protected from further oil contamination, overexploitation and degradation.

### Legal measures needed

"Legal measures should be taken to declare this area a wildlife refuge and community awareness programs should be conducted. It can then be a marketing timestone future with still appreciably good forest cover," the scientists said.

They stressed the importance of conservation because "coastal communities depend on the sea for their livelihood. The productivity of the sea and coastal areas depend on their biodiversity."

The scientists recommended that conservation measures to carry six months the bird migration that starts in late September or early October, when the northern birds start arriving, all the way to mid-February, the peak of the migration. They also suggested that studies go on until April and May "in order to get a comprehensive record for the year."

The experts also said coastal ecosystems comprising mangroves, sea grass beds and coral reefs should be monitored every six months and annually for the next five years.

Gravely severe at both land and home for fish and other marine life. They form part of a complex marine ecosystem that includes sea grass and mangroves, which provide conditions against erosion and sedimentation.

### Unaffected hard coral

The Silliman study reported that more than 67,800 hectares of hard coral in the southern coves of Guimaras were unaffected by the oil spill.

Patterns of life monitored every six months for the first two years and annually over the next five years, they said.

The proposed wildlife refuge area covers 2 sq km with a coastline of 9.8 km and a seascape of 1,275 sq km.

### Recommendations

Aside from environment conservation, the Silliman team recommended these long-term measures:

- "There is a need to study carefully shipping routes for passenger and cargo ships carrying hazardous materials. Presently, these two types of ships share these shipping routes or lanes. Cargo ships carrying hazardous materials must have specific routes that are as far as possible from critical coastal and marine ecosystems and protected areas."
- "Regular training on oil spill management should be conducted in coastal communities at risk of oil spills based on shipping routes by the Coast Guard and the DENR."
- "Bermuda-the oil and chemical companies and shipping companies engaged in the business of carrying oil, chemical products, and toxic and hazardous wastes to set up an Environmental Oil Spill Contingency Fund that would help defray the costs of cleanup, rehabilitation and restoration of the environment and research on the long term effects of oil or chemical spills. The fund may also be used to shoulder the medical and health expenses and to compensate people affected by spills."
- "The fund should be established in light of the 1992 International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage and the 1992 International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage."
- "Require oil and chemical companies and shipping companies involved in transporting oil and chemical products to submit their contingency response plans detailing how they would respond to a major oil or chemical spill."
- "There is a need to strictly enforce all laws, regulations, international conventions and state duties for maritime-related activities and to impose penalties on erring owners."

### Partnerships required

Leading scientists and academics have suggested the ecological rehabilitation of Guimaras from the effects of the oil spill contamination will require a long-term partnership among government agencies, private corporations and global institutions (twinned) in environmental conservation.

The Philippine president of World Wildlife Fund, Dr. Lawrence Tan, in a paper circulated after the oil spill, said "a multisector-inspired rehabilitation and recovery plan needs to be formulated, and embedded into the province's own master plan."

"This template will be essential for monitoring, evaluation and most importantly of all, consistency," he added. "A roundtable (multisector meet) be organized to integrate resource pledges and address funding gaps. There are many interested individuals, corporations and institutions with regional, national and global mandates."

Tan added: "The rehabilitation of Guimaras must not be merely a scientific or political exercise; rather, it must be a replicable model that communities, responsible and local governments can emulate and benefit from."

### Solid scientific platform

He said the WWF hoped to help the University of the Philippines-Visayas "establish a solid scientific platform for its efforts and multisyear initiative ... A science-based, community-led plan is a catalyst for continuity, transparency, accountability and, ultimately, quantifiable results."

Stressing that the country has "an ecology-dependent economy," Tan said "close to half of all Filipinos depend on coastal resources, the coastline, and half of all Filipinos depend on seafood as their primary source of protein."

"Much work needs to be done, involving many disciplines," he said, including "careful ecological assessments."

"The rehabilitation and biological recovery efforts need to be started, set into motion and structured for continuity and lasting impact," Tan said.

CLEANUP workers load onto their boat cans of leaked oil debris collected from villages in Nueva Valencia town in Guimaras.

A MEMBER of the "Save our Seas, Save our Life" free medical mission organized by Gabriela Pinay examines an oil-drenched sea bird in Barangay Bulwanan in Nueva Valencia.

# Mangroves to hasten recovery

From page A1

An independent study, also commissioned by Petron and conducted by a team of Silliman University scientists, found that some of the coral beds had been affected by the oil spill, but several mangrove areas were... (See related story on Page A2.)

### Warning on cleanup

For the mangrove areas affected, the Arak experts recommended skimming the oil from the surface and using oil-absorbent materials to clean the trees. But they cautioned against "heavy cleanup operations which may cause more damage."

Despite, they said, should not be allowed to go to the "detrimental area (because) crabs have still alive and working" in the natural rehabilitation process.

The experts said rehabilitation work could begin after three to six months by replanting mangrove seedlings. They advised against pulling out dead trees "because roots are intertwined."

For the sea grass areas, the experts said "heavy cleanup operations may cause more damage." They suggested removing the oil from the water surface and adding fertilizer to speed up revegetation.

Sea grass beds form an important part of the marine ecosystem, ranging from providing a buffer for coral reefs to protect coasts and mangroves from strong waves, sea grass support a host of marine life.

### Natural conditioning

For the shores, the experts recommended removing the oil and debris, and letting "natural conditioning (waves action)" take care of the natural cleaning process which may take one to two years.

Long-term studies would also support the experts' recommendations. In November 1972, eight months after an oil spill off the southern coast of Puerto Rico, scientists found the resurgence of young fauna.

Although sediment oil was high, chemists from the Bowdoin College in Maine found that the oil had been heavily weathered and degraded. Their studies suggested that such components were gone in about six months.

### Chemical dispersants

In another oil spill on Aug. 30, 1992, in southern Australia, cleanup crews were advised that the use of chemical dispersants in mangrove areas was likely to increase the damage to the highly-oiled areas, the town reviewed rapidly.

The oil spill off Guimaras occurred on Aug. 11 after a tanker sank in bad weather and dumped half of the 2.19 million liters of industrial fuel oil it was carrying, affecting some 220 km of shoreline.

In comparison, during the 1991 Gulf War, some 750 oil wells were set on fire and spewed almost 757 km of coastline in the Arabian Gulf.

The Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska in 1989 dumped 254,000 barrels of oil, creating environmental and "social" damage estimated at $16 billion.

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# Valenzuela City hit by dengue epidemic

## Health execs report 78% hike in cases

By CJ Yap

DENGUE CASES IN VALENZUELA CITY have already reached epidemic proportions this year despite an intensive sanitation campaign to combat the mosquito-borne disease, city officials said yesterday.

From Jan. 1 to Sept. 21, the number of dengue cases in the city has gone up by 78 percent compared to last year, according to a report of the city's epidemiology and surveillance unit.

Valenzuela epidemiologist Ahmed Mapoe said in a report that as of Sept. 21 this year, they have recorded 712 dengue cases, with nine deaths.

In contrast, only 311 cases were reported during the same period in 2018, with eight cases for the entire year, city information officer Maricher Mesia added.

"We already were past the dengue epidemic threshold level," Mayor Marwin Gatchalian said.

Based on computations done by the city health department, dengue instances in Valenzuela City has already surpassed the epidemic threshold, a figure based on increases in dengue cases over a period of five years, Mesia said.

### Dengue hot spots

Just last week, 37 new cases were monitored, Mapoe said in his report. More than half of the cases came from District 2, particularly Barangays Gen. T. de Leon, Karuhatan and Marulas.

The same report revealed that the ages of those who came down with the disease ranged from 4 months to 99 years old.

The most affected age group, however, was the five to 14-year-olds, which accounted for half of the cases. More than half, or 53 percent, were males.

City officials, meanwhile, expressed alarm over the apparent futility of their efforts to prevent a dengue epidemic. "We have done everything to keep dengue-causing mosquitoes at bay," Gatchalian said.

"He deployed brigades, conducted fogging operations, and even formed teams to dispose of old tires and containers that could be breeding grounds for mosquitoes," he added.

The mayor said the residents could be blamed themselves for their insufficient "tedious cleanup"—failing to keep their surroundings clean and destroying possible mosquito breeding grounds.

Gatchalian urged city residents to "religiously employ simple measures" to ward off mosquitoes, like making their children wear long pants to school.

BATH TIME! Christmas may still be several months away but holiday decorations are already on display along Kaligayan Road in Quezon City, so the delight of a boy who decides to give one of the miniatures Santa a bath. JOAN BONDOC

# DENR: Uncollected Metro garbage wind up in rivers, esteros

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SOME 3,000 TONS OF GARBAGE generated by residents in Metro Manila end up being thrown into rivers, esteros or are left to rot on the streets because they are not collected by waste collectors.

This piece of bad news surfaced yesterday in the Senate hearing of the 2020 budget of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Sen. Franklin Drilon said garbage collection efficiency in the metropolis was only 85 percent. This means, he added, that 1,000 tons out of the 6,100,000 tons of garbage produced daily by Metro residents were uncollected.

His statement was confirmed by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu.

When asked where the uncollected garbage went, Reyes said, "The households throw them into esteros, rivers and on the streets."

Drilon expressed concern over the situation and asked Reyes to come up with a comprehensive program to address the garbage problem in Metro Manila.

### Not our problem

The DENR chief, however, said that waste collection was the responsibility of local governments.

Sen. Pia Cayetano, chair of the Senate environment committee, said the garbage problem was compounded by corruption in the use of funds for garbage disposal.

"A lot of money is made under the table. The funds are not being used for waste disposal," Cayetano added.

Sen. Joseph Victor Ejercito, meanwhile, asked the DENR to submit a list of all garbage collection contracts in the last two years but the department has yet to comply with his request.

# New NBI official to focus on media killings

## MetroBriefs

### Deal-free city

### Speedier development

## Did you know

By Maryjean C. Ortiz

THE NEWLY APPOINTED OFFICER IN charge of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) National Operations Division has vowed to focus on sensational cases involving the media.

"Sir, will give a hundred percent attention to media and political killings," Regional Director Reynaldo Esmeralda, former chief of the NBI Special Task Force (STF), told reporters in an interview.

Esmeralda said he would ensure that under his supervision, the bureau's personnel officers would become more dynamic and proactive.

NBI National Capital Region (NCR) chief Ruel Lasala, whose office is directly under Esmeralda's supervised support to the NBI official's appointment.

"Esmeralda's appointment will be very beneficial to the regional command because he is young, energetic and hardworking," Lasala said.

### Age an advantage

He added, "Esmeralda will have time to visit the regional offices, unlike the past deputy directors who were old when they were appointed to the post."

As for text messages circulating in the bureau that Esmeralda had been accused of kidnapping, car theft, murder and indirect bribery in the past, Lasala said all the charges have since been dropped.

"Esmeralda has been cleared of all those charges ... he's an all-rounder to those accusations where we are doing our duties to law enforcers," the NBI-NCR chief said.

Esmeralda was designated by Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez as acting director of the NBI-NCR after the former chief of the division, Prudencio Reyes, retired.

The new NBI official is a lawyer and has a bachelor's degree in criminology.

He also obtained a master's degree in criminology major in Law Enforcement Administration, and a doctorate in the same field.

## Cops probing woman's death

By Tarra V. Quismundo

POLICE HAVE SET TO DETERMINE the circumstances behind the death of a 48-year-old woman who was found with traces of sour fat body inside her house in Malate.

Ofelia Natividad was found lying on her bed inside her room at around 8:30 a.m. yesterday. Her room, a small bedroom in her family's house, also served as a sari-sari (variety) store.

Senior Inspectors Reynaldo Reyes and Rodolfo Tesoro, both of the Malate Police Station, responded to the scene after receiving a report from the Malate Police Station.

Reynaldo Natividad, the deceased victim's husband, said he had left Ofelia at around 7 p.m. on Sunday to attend a wake in Tondo, Manila.

He said he returned home at around 3 a.m. yesterday and found his wife dead.

Reynaldo said Ofelia had been suffering from hypertension and had been taking medicine for the illness.

Police said they found no signs of violence on the victim's body.

Investigators from the Malate Police Station's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) are looking into the case.

Police said they found no signs of violence on the victim's body.

Investigators from the Malate Police Station's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) are looking into the case.

His relatives told reporters they opened a five-inches wound before her body was found, Palmerian added

# Sri Lanka says it sank 11 rebel boats in naval clash

COLOMBO—SRI LANKAN NAVY SANK 11 Tamil Tiger vessels and killed dozens of rebels in a fierce five-hour battle overnight, the military said on Monday, a hot night after the two signed a tsunami peace talks to halt renewed civil war.

The navy believes a top Tiger naval commander was killed or injured during the clash at sea around 80 km north of the strategic northeastern harbor of Trincomalee—one of the most serious naval battles since a 2002 ceasefire that now lies in tatters.

"There were 20 Sea Tiger boats sailing south. Eleven boats were sunk, and about 70 cadres were killed," said Chief Inspector of Police Nimal Peiris of the Center for National Security. He said five navy cadets were dead in the clash.

"Fourteen Tiger craft fled toward their northeastern base at Mullaitivu. Two of those boats are torn," he added. "They were trying to bring in reinforcements and weapons."

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam were not immediately available for comment on the incident, which comes days after a suspected rebel bomb threatened to reacquire recently lost territory on the southern tip of Trincomalee harbor.

However, the Tigers have denied any involvement in the distribution of leaflets warning residents to leave immediately ahead of a rebel offensive.

Thousands of Muslims driven away by fighting in August have fled their homes for the second time in as many months in the wake of the threat, and aid workers say the military is preventing thousands more from leaving the area.

The government has ordered families who spent weeks in emergency shelters and schools in nearby towns to return to the Muslim areas, and has closed them and cleared away refugee camps that local communities said were disrupting their lives.

With sporadic fighting and shelling continuing, searching aid workers said the countryside was close to collapse.

"The basis for a ceasefire was obtained by us alone that is that [the Sri Lankan government is in control of Muttur," the rebels said in their official website www.tamilnet.com, accusing the military of pinning the "warring brothers as victors."

But Tigers said the grave rumors have both told groups Global Harmony they are prepared to meet for talks after a five-month deadlock to end a new chapter of civil war that has killed hundreds of civilians, troops and rebels since late July.

However, analysts and diplomats are skeptical that talks will actually happen, and fear a war that has killed more than 65,000 people since 1983 will grind on unless the two sides address the core issues. Human rights abuses by both sides and the rebels' stymied demand for a separate homeland for minority Tamils in the north and east. Reuters

# Islamists capture Somalia's third city

KISMAYO, SOMALIA—ISLAMIST forces with machine guns mounted on pickup trucks took over the strategic Somali port of Kismayo overnight on Monday without facing any shots, extending their grip on the south, witnesses said.

Crowds gathered from early morning to watch the Islamic fighters who had ridden into the port, the third of Somalia's three largest city which lies near the Kenya border.

The warlord in charge of the region fled late on Sunday.

Col. Abdikadir Aden Hatir, also known as Barre Hirale, is a former minister in Somalia's weak interim government and led the Juba Valley Alliance (JVA), an independent authority that has controlled the region around Kismayo.

But analysts say they put up no resistance to the Islamists, some intermittently pursuing to work with them.

"I am happy for the new change, I welcome it. The chief of police and myself will work with the Islamic Courts' Union," Hadi Mohamed, Kismayo deputy police chief, told Reuters.

Some Ukraine's family unit on Sunday followed a split within The Alliance on how to respond to the Islamic Courts Union (ICU), which seized Mogadishu and other parts of southern and central Somalia earlier this year.

The Islamists' advances since June have challenged the interim term of the Western-backed interim government of President Abdullahi Yusuf which aims to restore central rule for the first time since warlords started a decade in 1991. Reuters

SNOWY SUMMER IN MOSCOW
A duck stretches its wings on a pond with reflections of autumn trees in central Moscow, Sept. 24. It is an unusual warm Indian summer in Russian capital, with the temperature at 22 degrees Centigrade to cool at Moscow.

# Swiss voters approve tougher asylum barriers

BERN—NEUTRAL SWITZERLAND, home to humanitarian agencies and the International Committee of the Red Cross, overwhelmingly majority on Sunday to make it harder for asylum seekers to gain entry to the rich Alpine state.

Despite warnings of damage to the country's humanitarian reputation, 68 percent of voters said 'yes' to referendum on changes to Swiss asylum rules making them among the West's toughest and on limiting access for non-European job seekers.

Voters accepted the arguments of right-wing Justice Minister Christoph Blocher that the new regulations, featuring a requirement that all asylum seekers have a passport, were necessary to fight alleged abuse.

"The people have said they do not want abuse [of the system] but they want to maintain the humanitarian tradition of Switzerland," Blocher told TSR television. The minister says he has their 'full' of asylum-seekers last year he said.

According to his ministry, the new law changes will 68 percent backing. Such measures have already been passed by parliament and the governing party, but opponents turned to campaign and secure a referendum.

It is the latest move by an industrial power—Britain is among others—in rules barriers against asylum as part of a crackdown on illegal immigration.

"Obviously we are disappointed, but we know it would be difficult," said Thomas Christen, secretary general of the Swiss Socialist Party, one of the few parties to oppose the changes. Reuters

# Blair shies from backing Brown

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND—BRITISH Prime Minister Tony Blair refused Sunday to publicly back Finance Minister Gordon Brown as his successor, as the Labour Party conference opened with calls for unity and fresh focus.

The fighting words of the whole country will be given to the country's top job for as a damaging row spoke this month, with lawmakers loyal to the chancellor of the exchequer forcing Blair to say he would be gone within a year.

But pressed on BBC television interviews on whether he would endorse Brown to the 12,000 Labour delegates here this week, Blair—who has said his effective number two would be a "brilliant" leader—demurred.

"I'm not getting into the leadership contest and all of the rest of it. Gordon has been a fantastic chancellor. He's been a great servant of the country, we get to be party," he said.

"I don't really from anything I've said but this week I'm talking to the public about the public's concerns."

Indications Blair and Brown may have put their feuds together to avoid the prime minister's last annual congress as Labour leader being dominated by the succession issue was with a strong show from senior government ministers

BLAIR

Blair—due to spend here three days—raised the need to "reconnect" with voters, saying the party "went dead, 'almost 'without heart'" from the public during the succession row, causing widespread anger among Labour grassroots.

In remembering of people's concerns, he added, Labour would be returned to power at the next general election, due before 2010 as the latest but would need to remain in government longer.

"Both of us realize ... that the most important thing is that this week we set out our agenda for the future. It's important that the two of us work together with the rest of the Cabinet for the future," Blair said.

For his part, Brown set out his stall in a series of newspaper interviews and on television, speaking of the need for "new politics," with greater parliamentary and public accountability plus devolution of central government powers.

That could include changing the running of Britain's public National Health Service to the same way that he handed the power to set interest rates from the executive to Britain's central bank, the Bank of England, in 1997, he added.

Brown—who plays a forensic speech here Monday—said there would be more money in areas like hospitals and London's relationship with Heathrow, but played down Blair's refusal to give him public backing.

Opening the conference, the chair of Labour's ruling National Executive Committee, Jeremy Beecham, also admitted the past few weeks had damaged the party's standing.

"It clearly and applaud, he told Labour lawmakers behind the letters celebrating earlier this month questioning Blair's fitness to lead "a period of change that you would be welcome." AFP

# On Malaysian roads, thrills, spills and 17 deaths daily

By Jahabar Sadiq

KUALA LUMPUR—MALAYSIA'S motorcoppers, hot-headers and night-club bouncers all have something in common: They are all massive speedaholics.

Every weekend, motorcycle fans operate on hundreds of motorcyclists, car drivers and passengers brought into hospital emergency rooms with head injuries suffered on some of the world's most dangerous roads.

Many of them do not survive and join a toll of about 17 people killed on average every day on Malaysia's roads.

Cramer and 850-4026 night, big the fatalities but road accidents are the biggest killer in Malaysia," Bank Limpin motorcoppers Prof. Vickaneswaran Manickavasagam told Reuters.

That figure translates to an average of 4.2 deaths per 10,000 registered vehicles and ranks Malaysia as the 20th most dangerous country in terms of fatal road accidents, according to UN data.

Malaysia has built a web of high-speed motorways over the past 20 years and is committed to goal of developed country status by 2020, but road safety is still at risk in the slow lane.

Overcrowded cars hurtle along roads at more than 100 kph. Rarely are the occupants buckled. Toddlers often stand around unrestrained in the front passenger seat.

Motorcyclists take the most risks, weaving through city traffic at high speed, their helmets unfastened if worn at all.

In 2003, 6,100 people died in road accidents in Malaysia, 60 per cent of them motorcyclists. In the first half of 2004 alone, 3,137 people were killed with 5,870 being either motorcyclists or pillion riders.

Most accidents are ascribed to alcohol abuse. Young male motorcyclists are often high on cocktails more than accidents.

"It is exhilarating to race down a road, 60, I need is just a few nuggets but I can't," says Razif Ismail, one of my fits," dispatch rider Amir Fatma told Reuters as he prepared for an illegal street race on a Friday night.

He is among the hundreds of motorcyclists who gather every weekend in Kuala Lumpur to race each other or just roam in packs along expressways and city streets, performing dangerous tricks at high speed, some of them without helmets.

Illegal racers also walk death in the hope of winning up to 3,000 ringgit ($789.16 in prize money or sometimes a girl for the night.

For some of them, fatal crashes drive death, taking drugs a standard before pushing their cheap bikes beyond the limit, reaching speeds of around 160 kph.

Some of those young men end up in the care of neurosurgeon Wan Sulaiman in Malaysia. He has seen about 300 accident cases a month, he is frustrated at such preventable suffering.

"The motto is simple. It is road safety," he said.

But Malaysia's road safety director, Surat Singh, said curbing road accidents needs a comprehensive approach.

"This is the young and the reckless. We need to instill road safety culture in them," Singh told Reuters in an interview.

Authorities plan to spend some 100 million ringgit up to 2010 to create road safety awareness.

An immediate plan to slow down the death rate is to issue a million crash helmets to youths and those too poor to afford them, particularly in rural areas where enforcement is low.

Crash helmets are mandatory by law but they are rarely seen on motorcyclists outside urban areas.

The government has also launched an awareness campaign on television, print media and billboards to get drivers to "Only up in attitudes and to set up on bad, more safely on the motorcycles.

The anti-crash campaign is among 52 programs for road safety over the next five years, though critics say adding a net increase in camera surveillance systems was also planned for early 2005 to get motorists to obey traffic rules.

Recently, four Malaysian Universiti Putra discovered road users' safety simplified traffic rules in to avoid being caught by police rather than for safety concerns.

"We want to change the road users' mind-set," Singh said, adding that officers' goal was to reduce the number of road deaths from 4.2 per 10,000 registered vehicles in 2008 to 2.6 in 2010.

The statistics also show that most of those injured or killed are people aged between 16 and 35, the most productive time of life, he added. Such death, he said, cost the country about 1.1 million ringgit and crashed some 4 billion ringgit a year. Reuters

## *1M killed each year from traffic worldwide*

TWENTY-FIVE MILLION PEOPLE have died on the world's roads since the first recorded automobile fatality occurred in London in 1896, the World Health Organization said.

Here is an overview of how road deaths have risen to rumors. It kill more than 1 million people annually.

- A huge public health problem:
- Road traffic crashes kill an average of 3,242 people every day, or 1.2 million a year, the WHO said in its 2004 Road Traffic Injury Prevention report.
- The 11th leading cause of death globally, crashes injure between 20 and 50 million people a year.

The world's safest and most dangerous countries:

- Britain has the world's most dead rate from road crashes, with 20 deaths per 100,000 population, said the WHO.
- Britain has the safest roads in the world, the British Medical Journal (BMJ) reported in 2004, as crash/death deaths per capita and of deaths per kilometer travelled.
- Some 5.9 people out of every 100,000 are killed on British roads each year, compared with 11 in the European Union, 8.3 in Japan, 15.2 in the United States and 20 in Malaysia.

Who is most at risk?

- Ninety percent of traffic deaths happen in low- and middle-income countries. The WHO says better trauma care has reduced the death toll in more developed countries.
- Just under three quarters—71 percent—of all road traffic fatalities are male. More than half are young adults aged between 15 and 44.

Global crash costs:

- The costs of road traffic accidents are estimated at $518 billion globally and $65 billion in low- and middle-income countries. Reuters

The WORLD

Lilac Lorenzo B. Quezo

# World skeptical of Bin Laden 'death'

PARIS—A FRENCH INTELLIGENCE MEMO SUGgesting al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden might have died of typhoid has been met with skepticism around the world, including the highest levels of the French government.

France, the United States, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia all said they had no evidence to support the assertion in the memo, which was published Saturday in the French regional newspaper Ouest France.

"To my knowledge, Osama bin Laden is not dead. It is quite simple," French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy told French television on Sunday.

French President Jacques Chirac on Saturday confirmed the memo was genuine, stating he was "surprised" it had been made public and outlining an investigation into its leak.

But he stressed that the information it gave was "in no way confirmed."

However, persistent reports that Bin Laden was struck with illness fueled speculation about his fate.

The confidential document, drafted by the French foreign intelligence service DRM and dated Sept. 13, stated that according to a normally reliable source Saudi leaders confirmed the report, and Sept. 4, that Osama bin Laden is dead.

It said the 49-year-old Saudi Islamic militant, who has been held responsible for the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, succumbed to typhoid fever in Pakistan's western Hang, last August.

The Saudis were seeking evidence of Bin Laden's death, reliably by looking for his remains, the memo said.

In response, the Saudi Embassy in Washington issued a non-committal statement saying "the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has no evidence to support recent media reports that Osama bin Laden is dead."

"Information that has been reported otherwise is purely speculative and cannot be independently verified," the statement stressed.

It did not, however, address the French intelligence memo nor any whether its evaluation of what Saudi intelligence believed was inaccurate.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice simply said: "No comment...and no knowledge."

Several US intelligence officials told US media they had ordered no unusual heatmet or communications "chatter" which would likely follow such a momentous development.

Pakistan's interior minister, Aftab Sherpao, told AFP in Islamabad: "No, we do not have any such information with us."

Security officials hunting al-Qaida in Pakistan rejected the report, a senior official told AFP on condition of anonymity that "no such information has been shared" by the Saudis and that it was "inconceivable that an event of this nature would remain restricted in Pakistan."

It has been two several times been rumored to have died in the past, only to appear later in audio or video recordings.

The last verified message from Bin Laden was posted on the Internet on July 1, accusing Iraqi Shiites of waging "genocide" against Sunnis. A US official said the message was deemed authentic. AFP

## *Clinton: I worked hard to have Osama killed*

NEW YORK—IN A COMBATIVE television interview on "Fox News Sunday" former President Bill Clinton defended his handling of the threat posed by Osama bin Laden, saying he tried to have Bin Laden killed and was attacked for his efforts by the same people who now criticize him for not doing enough.

"That's the difference in me and some, including all of the right-wingers who are attacking me now," Clinton said in the interview. "They ridiculed me for trying. They had eight months to fix they did not try."

Clinton accused host Chris Wallace of a "conservative hit job" and asked: "I want to know how many people in the Bush administration you asked, 'Why didn't you do anything about the Cole?' I want to know how many people you asked, 'Why did you fire Dirk Clarke?'"

He was referring to the USS Cole, attacked by terrorists off the coast of Yemen in 2000, and former White House counterterrorism chief Richard A. Clarke.

Wallace said Sunday he was surprised by Clinton's "conspiratorial view" of "a very non-confrontational question. Did you do enough to connect the dots and go after al-Qaida?"

"All I did was ask him a question, and I think it was a legitimate news question. I was surprised that he would conjure up that this was a hit job," Wallace said in a telephone interview.

Clinton said he "worked hard" twice to kill Bin Laden.

"We ordered [with people in] the front. I got down to killing him changing Bush's position. "He said.

He told Wallace, "And you got that little smirk on your face and you think you're so clever, but I had responsibility for trying to protect this country. I tried and I failed to get Bin Laden. I regret it, but I did try and I did everything I thought I reasonably could." AP

CLINTON


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WHAT'S INSIDE


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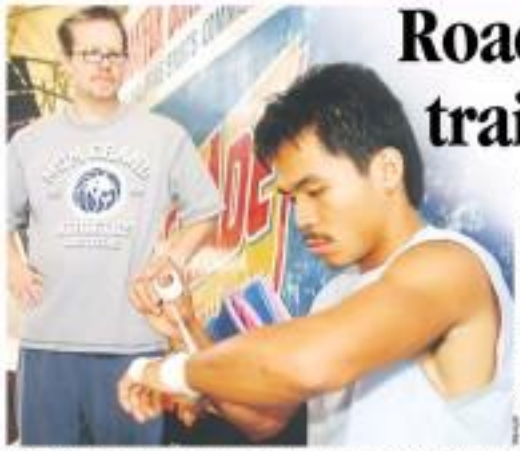
# Roach as Pacquiao trainer-manager?



TRUSTING PARTNERS: Freddie Roach (left) and Manny Pacquiao "have had arguments, but never a big blowup."

## 'Filipino ring hero open to idea'

SHELLY FINKEL, ET AL., YOUCH out. Rex "Wakee" Salud, move over.

World-renowned American trainer Freddie Roach—a well-loved boxing figure known for his sarcastic—is reportedly fatigued choosing to deal with all the ins fighting and being a trouble-shooter, and now ready to become more involved in the career of Filipino icon Manny Pacquiao by becoming his new manager.

Pacquiao's contract with Pinkett's management group that also includes Keith Thurman and Nick Blatnev will expire next year, and Roach is said to be courting a boxer one not his plans for.

"Freddie is sick and tired of all the infighting they have gone through, first with Mosley/Mosley-Salud and now with Shelly Finkel and his group," a well-placed source close to Roach told Michael Marley, a US lawyer and columnist for boxingscene.com.

"Freddie is tired of getting out there about where buddies sleep or of when kind of gloves he will use in a fight," the source added. "Freddie signed only as the trainer but he feels he has been acting as manager without being paid accordingly."

Roach earlier raised eyebrows in the boxing community when he decided to handle the affairs of Filipino boxer Diosdado Gallo. The boxer was Roach's first ward as a boxing manager.

According to the source, the Pacquiao-Roach deal will be announced after the Filipino's Nov. 18 fight with Mexico's Erik Morales.

Pacquiao and Roach are said to have been talking about Roach's offer to handle the dual jobs of trainer and manager with the American taking 20 to 25 percent of the Filipino's purses.

"Pacman likes the idea," Marley quoted the source as saying. "Freddie is the one who maintains the opponents and who brings in winning purses.

"He is, maybe, the only boxing guy who has never played Manny off. They've had arguments, yes, but never a big blowup where one or both of them stayed mad overnight.

"Pacman knows that Freddie only got pissed off at him when he starts clubbing up in the gym or is doing things he's not supposed to be doing."

Pacquiao, according to the arrangement, will still have a lawyer to assess his fight contracts, whether he goes with Golden Boy or Top Rank after his Oktoberfest bout with Morales.

"But make no mistake, the team driving the Pacman has the rest of Manny's limited by time's so-to will be Freddie Roach," the source said.

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# Pay cuts keep Ginebra Kings free of sticky salary issues

By Francis Ochoa

THE FINAL OBSTACLE to Barangay Ginebra fielding its 14 (in order to the 2006-07 Philippine Basketball Association season has been removed).

Four players from the 10-man stocked lineup have accepted pay cuts that will allow the crowd favorites to avoid salary cap issues this year, team manager Alfrancis Chua announced yesterday.

"The guys just want to play basketball," Chua told the bosses. "And among the things they were willing to sacrifice was their salaries."

Mckinney-Andy Seigle and Rodney Santos agreed to lower salaries, along the line that both were making off as rookies, while reserve swingman Eric Menk and the Kings were hard-pressed to go under the P7.5-million cap after acquiring three marquee players in a blockbuster off-season trade.

Rudy Hatfield, one of those the Kings dismissed during that trade, also took a big settlement pay cut "from his previous contract" to embody Coca-Cola Tigers.

Free agent acquisition Johnny Abarrientos also agreed to a pact "much lower" than he had died.

Castillo said he appreciated the cutthroat of the four during contract negotiations, citing the case of Seigle, who came to execute the minimum P350,000 monthly salary from a previous contract with the Kings.

Santos also endured he has a lot to prove because, like Hatfield, he was coming off an injury," Castillo said.

Mckinney gets an extraordinary, although Castillo said that after all the negotiations were completed, the Kings were left with enough elbow room to the cap to avoid committing luxury tax.

"Pacific and tobacco were on the same boat," Castillo said. "They just committed

PHA ready to form national team again A22


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# Old Black magic works for Eagles

By Jaroslaw W. Poyo

"A GAME CAN BE WON IN JUST TWO WAYS: second, it's never gone up hope that we can win the game and I will remain."

Ateneo coach Norman Black said this yesterday as he looked back on the gem of a play in the final second that lifted the Blue Eagles past the University of Santo Tomas Tigers, 73-72, in Game 1 of the UAAP men's basketball championship series Sunday.

With the Tigers about to celebrate what looked like a sure win, Marky Paraduna, rebounding from half-court, found Doug Kramer free under the basket and the Ateneo center turned around and buried the shot that broke the Tigers' home hearts.

Now it's all even. UST may have stopped Ateneo's bid for a record nine-straight victory in the eliminations, but the Eagles have exacted revenge on the Tigers. More importantly, the Eagles only have to win on Thursday to clinch the title.

Black, who has nearly snapped the final servings to his heroes in the game's final moments, said he had pulled off one such play in the 1980s, where he won 20 championships, including a grand slam with Jun Miguel Beer in 1989.

"We actually won a game with that play in [Jun Miguel] and I just happened to think about it," said Black. "With only one second left on the clock, I knew if we could to get the ball to Chris Tiu or anybody who was just going to switch and double cross him. I was just hoping they would leave Doug Kramer alone, and they did."

The escape act was the latest in a series of close calls the Eagles have weathered in their campaign as the top team in the eliminations.

Kramer played his heavy role to the hilt.

"I actually wanted the ball in my hands. I know the game wasn't over," said Kramer. "Mike Cortez designed this play for me, I turned to God, I asked him to stay his hand upon me and give me the confidence and courage. now I need to make the shot."

"I saw a bit uneven, but after I prayed I actually felt so confident and optimistic that [Jesus] would grant my," said the 6-foot-4 forward.

Kramer stood dun the play was a team effort. Also on the floor with Kramer and Paraduna were Jai Reyes, JC Intal and defensive stopper Tiu, who earned an ovation.

"Coach told me Marky could be a great pass and I made a great shot," said the 23-year-old Kramer, who is majoring in interdisciplinary studies.

**HAM** at the Heart: Doug Kramer hugs JC Intal after scoring the winning basket with one second left in Game 1 of the Finals.

(Photo by Lito Pascua)

# *Cage body gets SEC nod; congress rescheduled*

By Francis Dicksa and Mars Anthony Reyes

OPTIMISTIC THAT A UNIFIED BASKETBALL federation will move forward despite the obstacles that have hit the newly formed association, the Philippine Basketball Association will reasonable the national pool in January to prepare for several international events.

The developed as the new group, known as the Liga Basketbol ng Pilipinas (LBP), rescheduled a national congress that had been slated Wednesday, a move seen as a minor setback in its bid to regain recognition from the international basketball federation (FIBA).

"We will regroup in the national pool by January so we can pursue our commitments to the national squad," said PBA commissioner Noli Eala yesterday, adding that he doesn't see the postponement of the congress as a hindrance to the group's bid to gain FIBA recognition.

"At the very least, the group will be able to show the FIBA that a new association has been formed and the major stakeholders of basketball in the country are part of it," said Eala.

The rescheduling of the congress leaves the LBP without a set of officers, five days before the Sept. 30 deadline set by the FIBA.

The LBP gained a major point yesterday when it was granted a favorable and Exchange Commission registration after it submitted its amendments and by-laws there.

"It's a major step for LBP as we seek FIBA recognition," said PAP president Jose Cojuangco, who remained confident the new basketball group will meet its self-imposed deadline. Media report from Manuel R. Gatdula

# Pay cuts keep Kings free of salary issues

From page A21

get things over and done with so we can start preparing for the season.

"Because if [the pay] cuts, we were able to get enough cushion to stay under the salary cap."

A source said the Charlotte camp told the Kings may have a few complications when Sonics is sanctioned sometime this November, but added that the team was willing to play with 11 men if it were necessary that.

Tension with Bobby around, they should dear the cap easily with the pay outs they players took," said the source.

Cameron went when Charlotte signed to a blockbuster trade that brought Chalmers, Raul Bowen and Billy Mamaril to a side that already includes Eric Hicks, Mark Cagaloso and Jaypee Belmonte.

That, plus the signing of the ex-cross shooter, a former league Most Valuable Player, put the Kings under close salary cap scrutiny.

That is the second time Cuddi is involved in a "pay-cut scheme" to help the team fit under the cap. In 1994, when the was still playing, Cuddi agreed to take a reduced San Miguel signed whose key engineers, like Nelson Calma and Stanley Lim, took salary cuts to save somewhere the entry of "the Triggerman."

## SPORTSWATCH

### Cebuana Lhuillier Sluggers clinch 2nd in Asia slo-pitch

TEAM CEBUANA LHUILLIER FELIZED TO TOP seed Dong Yue, 12-3, in their second head-to-head encounter on Sunday afternoon to settle for second place in the Tri-Asia Taiwan International Slo-Pitch Softball Tournament in Taipei. The Cebuana Sluggers routed Dong Yue, 11-6, in their first meeting on Saturday morning, to assure the winner take all affair for the title of the eight-team tournament. A solid fourth inning, where Julius Hospital's three-run homer, opened up the game, while Rhenzel Rivera and Wes Estipular's second two runs each in the next innings turned from Cebuana's victory. Dong Yue, powered by professional players from the Chinese leagues, gained the twice to lead advantage after handing the Filipinos a 10-7 beating in the elimination round that ended yesterday. Team Cebuana advanced to the finals by winning over Fu Shang twice and 10th time over (21-6). Cebuana's Sly Mitjo was awarded Most Golden Player while teammates April Rosales emerged Home Run King. The Filipinos are led by playing team owner Fiscal Lhuillier.

### Coddlers chess Saturday

THE 14TH ANNUAL COGNIZO CHESS TOURNAMENT starts with a round at 11 a.m. this Saturday at the Ateneo Gymnasium in Loyola Heights, Quezon City, back of SM Megamall, in Mandaluyong City. The tournament, which will run until Oct. 8, is divided into four sections: Open, 2000 below, 1400 below and below. The first section will be held on separate dates while the 2000 below starts on Oct. 30, 1400 below on Oct. 1, below on Oct. 7 and Open on Oct. 8. The tournament offers a cash pool of P50,000 and is being held in memory of the late Cresencio Cadiz Sr., an avid chess player and former councilor of Naujan, Bataan. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top 10 finishers in each section. Registration fee is P700. For inquiries, call the MCC at 635-5000, 0918-9009-111 or 0915-852-1000.

### Larry's Cup men grateful

ORGANIZERS OF THE LARRY'S CUP AN AMATEUR golf tournament, have thanked Mark Park Golf and Country Club for allowing the staging of the event at the venue's all-weather West course. Organizing committee chair Mark Mendoza thanked Mark Park's president Rose Jamito Bautista Sr. and the members of the venue's board for supporting the event founded to help two foundations — Lambayong National Foundation Inc. and Barangay Ambiguous Foundation Foundation Inc. The tournament tee off on Thursday with a field of more than 250 players. Participants can either tee off in the morning or afternoon. A brand new Toyota Vios and two golf carts are up for grabs as main hole-in-one prizes.

### Stagfest at Ralgon today

STAFF CORDLESS PLANE PETE HOTSON and Raging at 6 p.m. today in the opening round of Ralgon Mega Complex's annual Nordmaster "Stag Festival" 3-stag derby. The event, hosted by Ralgon Mega Complex's Lakeside Golf Course and by Lakpue Drag Inc. and Thunderbird Emotions, will have its second round on Thursday and the finals on Saturday. Those wishing to join the second round could submit entries from now on to 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Stags with "Hometown Derby" assignments (classified as 1 and 5) will be exempted. Meanwhile, the screening of stags is now ongoing in connection with the "Thunderbird Hotel 5-Stag Derby" on Oct. 14, 15 and 16. For registration and more information, call 895-2376, 895-1000 or 892-8812.

# Tiger hurt by under-performance

STRAFFAN, IRELAND—TIGER WOODS HAS admitted that he is pained by his record of under-performance in Ryder Cups after being part of an American team that was whipped by a record-equaling margin at the K Club.

The world number one was a pale shadow of his normal self as he struggled over the first two days of fourballs and foursomes.

And although he finished the match with three points from a possible five by beating Robert Karlsson three and two in Sunday's singles, he suggested that was scant consolation.

Woods has now ended up on the winning side in only one of the five transatlantic matches he has played in and he admitted, "It doesn't sit well that I've played in."

Woods added: "We were out and they just outplayed us. What a course down to is educ- ever plays the 16th the best and who makes most putts for the week, and the Europeans did better on both of those."

Woods' six birdies on the final day - twice the total he had managed in two fourball outings with Jim Furyk on Friday and Saturday - told their own story about the problems he has in adapting to team golf.

Such a splendid isolation, Woods looked once more like the player who has won 11 major titles and put together a currently-unbeatable run of four consecutive tournament victories in the build-up to this week.

Sunday's win means Nicola has now played a total of 25 Ryder Cup matches, won only 10 of them, halved two and lost 13 — new figures which suggest whoever replaces Tom Lehman as US captain faces a difficult task in working out how to get the best out of the world's best player in this environment.

One person who believes that may never happen is Butch Harmon, Woods's former coach. "He is not comfortable in a partnership," Harmon said. AFP

GLOOMY Tiger Woods (left) and David Toms attend a press con- —

# Europe win vindicates Woosnam

## 18.5-9.5 rout of US matches 2004 record

DARREN Clarke (left) celebrates with captain Ian Woosnam on the 16th hole. —

STRAFFAN, IRELAND—IAN WOOSNAM HAS revealed how he spent the last 18 months agonizing over whether he would be a successful captain of Europe's Ryder Cup team and hailed his side's crushing victory over the United States as the high point of his life.

Woosnam, who had to deal with a barrage of criticism in the buildup to the match, said Sunday's triumph surpassed the day he had his only other success, doing this US Masters in 1991.

"This is the pinnacle of my life," he said. "I have won many tournaments around the world, I've won a major and I've been number one in the world and have to say this is the greatest moment of my life."

Woosnam admitted he had never dared to dream that his side, despite its strength in depth, would be able to repeat the 18.5-9.5 victory that the European team had achieved under Bernhard Langer in Detroit in 2004.

"Eighteen months ago, when they asked me to be captain, any victory would be fantastic, and to walk away with the same record Bernhard Langer has, I think is unbelievable.

"I've been worried about it for 18 months because it is an unbelievable responsibility to be a captain. It is all right standing there as a player because the only person you can let down is yourself."

Woosnam's credentials as the right man for the job were called into question by many pundits when he was seen to misdemean the selection of his two wild-card picks, Darren Clarke and Lee Westwood, with Denmark's Thomas Bjorn particularly aggrieved at missing out.

Tears was furious that Woosnam had not explained his actions before announcing his decisions and described the Welshman as "pathetic" while claiming that other players shared his disdain.

Further misgivings were prompted by Woosnam's sometimes stumbling performances in front of the media and Langer's revelation that he had not been consulted about pairings since the this year's match, despite his successes two years ago.

In things turned out, Woosnam's judgment as he as Clarke and Westwood are rewarded could scarcely have been better and the captain appeared to have secured the total trust of his players.

Clarke and Westwood were both the 9 matches they played together and their singles while Westwood helped secure halves in the other two matches he was involved in.

"I've had some criticism over the last few months, but that's gone and past," said Woosnam. "We have got the cup and we scored and I have had 12 Europeans gone to help me."

Colin Montgomerie, even the elder statesman among the European players, said: "The one thing that a team need of a captain is respect and there were 12 members of this team that respected Ian Woosnam as a person and as a captain.

"Ian wanted to win for him and that's what we do on this team." AFP

# Russia forges final vs Argentina

NEW YORK—RUSSIA CLAWED ITS way into the Davis Cup final. Argentina slipped.

Dmitry Tursunov won a five-set marathon over Andy Roddick to help Russia beat the United States, 3-2, Sunday and advance to December's final, while Argentina finished off Australia, 5-0.

Tursunov outlasted Roddick, 6-3, 6-4, 5-7, 3-6, 15-13, to give the Russians an unbeatable 3-1 lead, prevailing in 4 hours, 40 minutes in a match where 72 games tied a record for the most in the World Group since the tiebreaker was introduced in 1989.

In the final match, James Blake beat Mirni Safin, 7-5, 7-6 (4).

The Russians will host Argentina in December in their first Davis Cup final since they beat France in 2002 for their only title. Argentina will play for the title for only the second time, having lost to the Americans in 1981 in its only other appearance in the final.

In World Group qualifying, Roger Federer won his first match in as many days and led Switzerland past Serbia, 4-1, to keep the Swiss in the top tier.

Hanuchev, Romania reserved its place by beating South Korea, 4-1; Spain reserved Italy to avoid play-o- 1; Germany finished off Thailand, 4- 1; and Olivier Rochus defeated Dominik Hrbaty of Slovakia, 6-2, 6-3, 6-1, for his third victory of the weekend, earning all of Belgium's points in a 3-2 win that earned it promotion to the World Group.

Austria finished off Mexico, 5-0, the Czechs completed a 4-1 victory over the Netherlands and Robin Soderling beat Ricardo Mello to straight sets while Simon Aspelin and Jonas Bjorkman combined for a doubles victory to edge Sweden over a 2-1 lead over Brazil. AP

SPAIN'S Rafael Nadal exults after winning his match, 2-6, 7-5, 6-2, 6-0, against Italy's Filippo Volandri during their Davis Cup tennis match in Tarragona on Sept. 24. —

# Webb nips Sorenstam for 4th title

DANVILLE, CALIFORNIA—Karrie Webb held off a surging Annika Sorenstam here Sunday to win the $1.2-million Longs Drugs Challenge by one stroke.

Sorenstam, who started the day tied with Webb, had fired a seven-under par 65, but Webb posted a two-under 70 to claim the win with a 13-under total of 272.

Webb earned $165,000 for her fourth title of the season.

"I just really appreciate that the double-bogey was my only blemish out there, that I really got a hold of myself and didn't make any mistakes and just made a couple of birdies and that was good enough," Webb said.

"It could have gone either way. I'm sure Annika probably had more chances to make some pars as well.

The Hall of Famer from Australia served past Aronsimm, Cristie Kerr and Mexico's Lorena Ochoa, who all have three wins in 2006.

Webb, who started the day with a five-stroke lead, had four birdies and a double-bogey.

Webb closed with five straight pars but by the time she reached the 18th home she was all she needed.

Playing in the group in front of Webb, Sorenstam's approach to the finishing hole was long and she was unable to chip in for a birdie, coming in at 14-under 272.

"I felt everybody back in when I doubled seven. In those three, it was game on," Webb said.

Filipino-American Dorothy Delasin rallied for a 75 and would up at 287, good for $8,892. AFP

# King paces World Cup hopefuls

HUTSON INTERNATIONAL/AP CHRONICLE Big Bend a blistering 2004 series in 12 games Sunday to lead 33 others into the second round of the 2006 Sterling World Cup national men's finals at Seattle's Lower Queen Anne.

A member of the Doha Asian Games-bound national team, King averaged 217 to finish ahead of Jeanes Gerbilas (2233), Raoul Miranda (2222), Richie Ribbon (2206), RJ Bautista (2200) and four-time World Cup champion Peng Sopronicentre (2490).

Bautista and Sopronicentre shared the men's doubles gold medal in the Busan Asian Games in 2002.

King highlighted his performance with big games of 279, 243 and 242.

Mark Tee, gold medalist in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games here, clocked in seventh at 2452, while one-time World Cup titlist C.J. Soares ranked 14th at 2413.

The 34 ladies and 34 men still in position at the top vs Caracas, Venezuela, at the women's 16-game series. The international finals are Nov. 4-18 at the 40-lane Centro National de Manpora will compete in the second round tomorrow at Seongli Midtown Lanes.

# Tigers gore Royals, gain AL Central playoff slot

NEW YORK—THE DETROIT Tigers secured since were in the second inning to collect a playoff spot with an 11-9 win over the Kansas City Royals on Sunday.

The Tigers' second huge inning in successive games took away any chance from these Carolina their first post-season berth since 1987. They also maintained a 1 ½ game lead on the Minnesota Twins in the AL Central race.

The Twins stayed close by downing the Baltimore Orioles 9-5 in Minnesota while the Oakland Athletics once again failed to climb the AL West title in front of their home fans, dropping a 7-1 decision to the Los Angeles Angels.

Craig Monroe hit a three-home homers to highlight the second inning onslaught as the Tigers fought off a late season slump to secure at least the AL wild card as the season moves to its final week.

It also capped a remarkable comeback for the franchise, which lost an AL record 119 games last three seasons ago. Detroit has the best record in the league at 89-62.

Brandon Inge homered during the nine-run second inning for the Tigers, while Matt Stairs later added another solo shot to key the wrath. Ol-Jet smash. Monroe had three of those hits and Stairs and Ivan Rodriguez added a pair each.

The big lead made for an easy afternoon for Tigers starter Justin Verlander, who went five innings to pick up the win before Leyland gave his bullpen some work.

Verlander (17-9) allowed two runs on six hits with three strikeouts and two walks for the Tigers, who enjoyed a 10-run first innings in their last game.

Kansas City starter Brandyn Hernandez did not survive the second inning and took the loss, as the Royals never swept in the three-game series and moved close to losing 100 games once again.

Hernandez (6-10) was charged with eight runs—just one earned—on seven hits with two walks and one strikeout. David de Jesus had three hits and drove in a pair of runs for the Royals. In Baltimore, Jay Bruce and Paul Bako both hit two-run homers as the Twins moved closer to a post-season berth with their win over the Orioles.

The Twins still trail the Tigers by 1 ½ games in the AL Central, but their magic number to clinch the wild card is down to two over the Chicago White Sox, who kept their faint hopes alive with a 12-7 win over Seattle. Reuters

RACING
BY TOP SHOOL

# MJC shows social commitment

THE MANILA JOCKEY CLUB (MJC) Gaudencio Antonio clinical horseracing club, took treasure from racing to hold medical, surgical and dental missions through its Health and Welfare Foundation, Inc. last Saturday at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite. The annual mission benefited about 2,000 indigent families from the Carmona municipal near the ICLP Bulacan, Malolos, Bulacan and Navotas. The one-day mission began at 8 a.m. at the ground floor of the ICLP Turf Club. The University of Perpetual Help System donated the services of 30 of its doctors, nurses and other medical personnel, while 40 to 50 dentists from the Bohol Tuberculosis Association assisted the group. Medicines were discounted by Pagoda Lloyd Laboratories and Zuellig, while Nestle provided product samples for distribution. MJC, which celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2007, takes ownership in 450-0 racing days in 2006. Photo by MJC Charities department is the handsome of its annual programs. For inquiries, call 514-4952.

DOCTORS from UP-PS and 30 dentists from Bohol offer free services during the MJC mission.

# SPORTS

## Nadera, Mendoza rule NCFP President's rapid chess tilt

INTERNATIONAL MASTER RAIJO NADERA AND woman International Master Jewelly Mendoza topped their respective divisions in the National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Prospero Pichay Jr. rated runner rapid chess tournament last Sunday at the Synergroup Music Bar and Restaurant in Malolos, Manila.

The 42-year-old Nadera beat erstwhile co-leader IM Ephraim Oliveros after 50 moves of a Sicilian Defense to finish with a 6-1 win-loss record en route to the title and the P10,000 top prize.

Nadera suffered his only loss to Rhobil Legaspi in the second round of the seven-round Swiss system event.

IM Oliver Dimakiling and wife, fast IM-elect Shirley Jo tied for second with 5.5 points. They got P6,000 each.

Dimakiling nipped fellow IM Yves Rubido in 56 moves of a Modern Defense while the 12-year-old Jo buried NM Abraham Magcio M. in 66 moves of a Grandmaster Game.

WIM Bewelly Mendoza edged WFM Jeanne Magbo via the "winner over the other" tiebreaker to rule women's play. Both finished with 5.5 and got P5,000 each. — Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

## Champs League 'Sweet 16' final cast up today

THE THREE FIELD CASE ENTRIES THAT WILL complete the "Sweet 16" of this year's Collegiate Champions League will be known today as basketball operations, ambassador and sports-editorial panels rank the lucky leading varsity teams in a knock hosted by Solar Sports at the National Sports Grill.

It will be the first time in the history of college basketball that teams will be ranked by media.

Among the candidates for the solid and upstart the University of the Philippines and Mapúa University, Jose Rizal University and San Sebastian, CIT-Colleges and Philippine Maritime Institute and Manuel L. Quezon University.

Already seeded in the Aquino 16 are UAAP iconic division, University of Santo Tomas, University of the East and Adamson, NCAA teams San Beda College, Philippine Christian University, Letran and Mapúa, Maters champion Arnnes, Usis champion Emilio Aguinaldo College and NCRAA champion St. Francis of Assisi.

There will be also two seeded teams from the Visayas-Mindanao region. The teams competing for the two slots are the top four teams of UE-DAD—University of Mindanao, University of Cebu, University of San Carlos and San Jose Recoletos — MOPSEA titlist Silliman Colleges and the champion of the FAA Davao competition.

### Lyceum, World Citi spikers zero in on WNCAA crowns

LYCEUM AND WORLD CITY OF LUCENA MOVED within a victory shy of the WNCAA 2006 season-ender volleyball crowns by taking Game 3 of their separate best-of-three finals Sunday at the PTE Gymnasium (KCC designated the first set tournament for hosting the court fifth to host it). Scheduling, 25-19, 19-18, 25-23, 25-17, for the Senior B finals. On the other hand, defending champion Lyceum got final Technological University's number, scoring a 25-18, 25-14, 25-18 opener-4 victory. The Lyceum Lady Pirates and WCC Vikings can swap stories with a second section Saturday for the battles for third place. San Beda clinching one over SMAT 25-15, 25-15, 25-15, a Senior B title 18. Statistic of Shaka concluded it. Barker. It was 2006 Computer Dealership. 25-17, 25-18, 25-12.

# Briton sweeps five races

## Sy 2nd thrice as AF3 wings back to Batangas

JAMES Winslow shows the way for Tyson Sy and Ali Jackson in Round 14. Inset, Winslow is flanked by Sy (left) and Jackson.

BOGOR, INDONESIA—BRITON JAMES Winslow of JK Motorsport remained invincible on the track, bucking several delays to notch victory in Round 10 and complete a sweep of the five races over the weekend at the Sentul International Circuit here.

Speedtech twin lead driver Tyson Sy placed second for the third straight time while erstwhile points humiliation leader Ali Jackson of Indonesia Jaya Racing claimed the last podium spot.

Dado Petia, who had wrecked his Daihatsu '94 in qualifying on Thursday and was nursing to get back on the track Saturday for the final race, remained in the sidelines after his crew failed to finish repairs on his transmission and engine.

His excuse had been scheduled in the five-day race week, but was had to be excused as a result of a crash on Saturday morning involving top contender Morony Sangrajan.

The race was restarted in the afternoon but was stopped after just three laps due to a minor incident involving Philnab's Henri Kurniawan of Team Goldcrest and Regan Hermanto of BMW Indonesia. When it was restarted anew, Winslow again got off to a good start and pulled away from the field.

The Briton clocked 13 minutes and three tenths of a second, by docket 13:00.345 while Jackson timed 13:08.210.

With Sangrajan watching from the sidelines, series newcomer Ramos Emeterio of Shell Helix Kinetik took the subpoh for the bottom, clocking a fourth-best 13:13.604.

Sixten Dillon Battistini of JK Motorsport was fifth in 13:16.324, followed by Santo Hermanto of BMW Indonesia (13:21.391). Speedtech duties Gabe de la Merced (13:41.278) and Michele Bongiorno of Team Goddard (14:02.165).

"I had a good start overnight," said Winslow. "The car was working so well I really didn't have to push that hard."

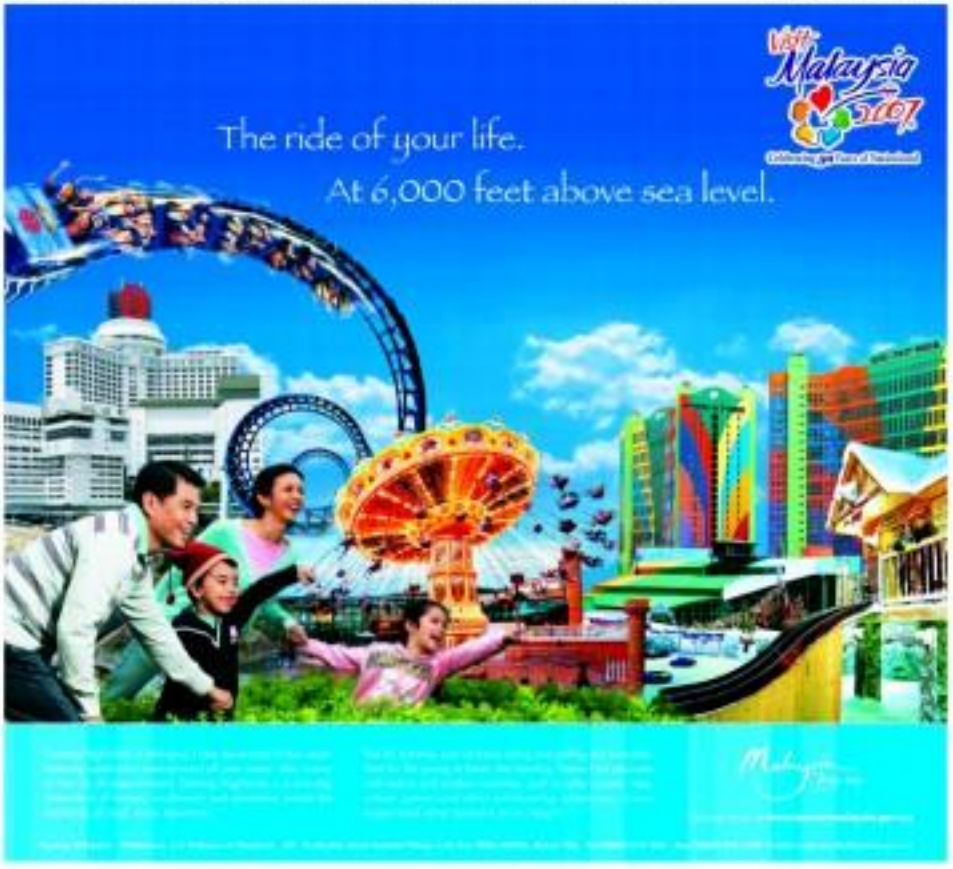
The 22-year-old Briton, a driving instructor at the Silverstone Circuit in Britain, picked up his seven to 107 and will go into the final leg in Batangas on Nov. 4-5 with a 20-point lead over Jackson (240). The 19-year-old Sy is the lone placed Filipino in third with 172.

"I'm amazed to have come up with five wins," said Winslow.

Sy was satisfied with his performance aboard his 2001 car but is still hoping his crew can finally diagnose what's wrong with his T4 Subaru that he threw to a sweep of the first three races in Batangas last May.

"I really didn't have a good start, and after that I was just pushing to catch James," he said. "I was a little bit faster than him on some corners but it was very hard to pass him. After that, I had to maintain my position against Ali because his car was faster than mine."

Forerunners and Gunjakkers newly-crowned when their cars crashed, knocking both of them out of the race.



# BUSINESS

Editor Raoul D. Pangalangan ● Business Editor Carole S. Martinez

# 6-month, 1-yr T-bill rates continue to slide

## Banks remain awash with cash

By Michelle V. Remo

EXCESS LIQUIDITY IN THE BANKING SYSTEM FORCED A DROP in the rates of the six-month and one-year treasury bills at yesterday's auctions, but the yield of the benchmark 91-day paper hardly moved as investors flocked to the longer-term debt instruments.

The 91-day treasury bill was inched up by a basis point to 5.449 percent on bids totaling P3.68 billion.

The amount of tenders reflected an oversubscription as the government's debt offering stood at only P2 billion for each tenor. The oversubscription for the three-month government securities, however, still paled compared with the appetite manifested by investors for the 182- and 364-day bills.

The 364-day securities fetched 5.811 percent, declining by 0.2 basis points from the last auction two weeks ago. Tenders for the six-month bills stood at P9.77 billion, reflecting an oversubscription of more than three times.

The rate for the 364-day bills hit 6.75% percent or 11.2 basis points lower than two weeks ago. Bids for the one-year debt instru-

A-MONEY 11

### INQUIRER MONITOR

**Pasay/Airport area posts highest hotel occupancy (January-June 2006, in percent)**

Source: Department of Tourism
Data: Philippine Inquirer Research

### Currencies

SYNDEX

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

$1 = ₱50.345

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 25, 2006

### Stock Market

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

SYNDEX

(See stock market report on Page B9)

**Stock prices steady**

SHARE PRICES MIXED MOSTLY YESTERDAY in the absence of a fresh lead and affected volatile trade late last week, dealers said.

They said the market was consolidating and could soon test the key 2,300-point le-

SYNDEX B3

## More RP companies getting involved in CSR

By Dixie L. Lucas

THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY PLAYS A crucial role in the fight against poverty worldwide, especially through its involvement in various social issues, according to the World Bank.

Speaking during the 5th Asian Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility, World Bank Group president Paul Wolfowitz said the contribution of the business sector to the global anti-poverty drive already outstrips that of governments significantly.

"Today, for every dollar in fiscal development assistance, there is another four dollars in private sector flows to developing countries," he said in a videotaped statement aired during the event. "That means more than $300 billion per year in debt and equity go to developing countries."

Wolfowitz added that 90 percent of all jobs worldwide are generated through private sector initiatives.

"That makes private sector jobs the most promising path out of poverty," he added.

In a separate press briefing, event chair Ramon R. del Rosario noted the declining awareness about CSR on the local corporate scene, even as Davao are increasingly affected by "donor fatigue."

"Business has a wider responsibility to society," he said. "It's not just about making money."

Del Rosario, who also heads the Philippine Business group, said that more and more companies were coming to realize that financial success was closely tied to how much they care for the communities in which they operate and the larger society.

MORE B2

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▶ Location Map

# Coca-Cola pursues talks to gain control of RP unit

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE COCA-COLA CO., THE WORLD'S biggest soft drinks maker, is keen on beefing up its stake in Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. to at least 52 percent from its present 35 percent, by buying additional shares from its principal partner, food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp.

"Coke will always be in the Philippines. There is no thought of leaving the Philippines. There has been no change in our position to take majority control and a majority stake," Jose Bardon, Asia president for public affairs at the local division of The Coca-Cola Export Corp., said in the sidelines of yesterday's Asian CEO Forum at the Subiday Inn Gallleria.

San Miguel owns 65 percent of CCBPI.

Officials of The Coca-Cola Co. in Atlanta said in an e-mail reply to the inquiries that discussions were ongoing with San Miguel on the future of CCBPI, including the option of the US-based parent firm to take a majority stake in and management and operational control of the local bottler.

"However, as these discussions have not been fully finished, we are not ready to comment further," TCCC said.

The Coca-Cola Co. and San Miguel bought the Philippine bottler from Coca-Cola Amatil Ltd. in 2005 for $2.26 billion.

CCBPI, which includes Cosmos Bottling Corp. and Philippine Beverage Partners, accounts for 35 percent of San Miguel's total revenues. In terms of operating income, CCBPI contributes 6 percent to San Miguel's.

During the recently concluded meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank members' countries in Singapore, Gov. Gui said there were quite a number of foreign investors who expressed interest to invade Philippine-issued bonds.

Only 3 percent of holders of externally issued Philippine bonds are foreigners and the rest are local investors. Gui expressed optimism that the country's improving economy and the national government's fiscal position.

## 6-month, 1-yr T-bill rates . . .

From page B1

anyone reached P9.77 billion, an oversubscription of nearly four times. Also percentage point is equivalent to 100 basis points.)

The Bureau of the Treasury's auction committee accepted P6 billion worth of bids, raising in full its borrowing program yesterday.

National Treasurer Omar Gui told reporters that the market's interest was for government securities with longer maturities, given that the rate for the 91-day bill was seen as too low.

Gui said there was hardly any trading in the secondary market for the three-month bills and that investors of these debt instruments were just waiting for the paper to mature.

Gui said the results of the auctions for locally issued government securities, particularly for the 182- and 364-day bills, reflected positive market sentiments for the country's externally issued debt instruments.


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## Greed lack

BOTH EXECUTIVES AND RANK-AND-FILE employees of power plant operator Mirant Philippines seem to be positioning for a little killing.

Word goes around that the company just received a letter, suggesting it no uncertain terms that the company should give employees "their 'separation pay'."

And the letter purportedly comes from ... well, the very same employees. Wow!

As everybody knows, the power company of Mirant Philippines, the one called Mirant Asia Pacific Ltd., is up for sale in the highest bidder.

Proceeds from the sale will then cover, partly, the funding for the tender offer of the US-based grandparent firm Mirant Corp., which is just recovering from bankruptcy.

My info is that the US-based Mirant already has a short list of the bidders. Thus, some of the top officials of the foreign-based parent firm Mirant Asia Pacific will soon change hands.

To the employees of Mirant Philippines, it's clear that with the forthcoming change in the ownership of Mirant Asia Pacific, which will be the fifth change in ownership in as many years, and which therefore will have little if at all effect on the local company, they are entitled to separation pay.

It's like the contractors of the government getting paid for something that does not exist—"ghost projects," in the parlance.

Simply, what the employees want is the separation pay even without their being separated from the company.

Quick, somebody please tell those guys that the reverse is true—that, the sale of Mirant Asia Pacific will have little impact on local operations, except perhaps for a few top management people.

In a lark words and barred coin like that, the whole organization actually remains the same. The buyer simply becomes the new stockholder. The officers of the company will remain. Everything will remain the same, even the cockroaches in the offices.

For another way, the local power companies are not going to close down. The workers will not be ... well, "separated."

Now, I heard that Mirant Philippines, in a surprising coincidence, a few months ago got the same weird request from a few group workers for separation pay. Hmm.

Can it be then that the "employees" are the same top executives who want to cash in on the company's fat separation package without the actual separation?

Apparently, those top guys are the ones salivating the most and file to make their move for a little killing to look like it means rank-and-file, much like "people power."

After all, some top guys at the state-run Napocor already employed a similar modus operandi, as they raided the company's kitty from retirement fund.

Subsequently they simply had themselves "rehired," so that now they continue to make money out of multi-million pesos kitty.

Anyway, if Mirant Philippines is not a government company, why would its people want to get money that, technically is not due them? Not for lack of greed, I guess!

Maybe the employees were concerned about what will happen to them, since the management has already told them that cutting will happen in the rank and file. Ironically, the workers of Mirant Philippines Pacific will want to put their own trained people to top management of the subsidiary Mirant Philippines.

That's the only time they can get the separation pay. That's why it is called "separation" pay.

Still, I heard that Mirant Philippines has a generous "separation package," apparently equivalent to more than 20 times the legal formula.

Maybe it explains why some people are applying for separation pay.

I heard that the campaign is over turning dirty, since it "white paper" is now making the rounds of business, discussing the fate of higher-ups in the company by expensive clothes and watches.

Some watches like that immediately tell me that some guys are really out to make a killing. One of them is reported to be getting something like P20 million if Mirant Philippines is so stupid that it cares to in the campaign.

...

The new owner of the high-end membership store chain Price Smart, the one presented other Price Club and Costco in the Unified States, is also the group that owns another store-chain called Pure Gold.

Pure Gold's main figure behind Jose Gold of course is Lucio Co, who in the early 1990s started the retail chain as duty-free stores in the former US bases Subic and Clark.

In acquiring Price Smart, however, Pure Gold seemed to be trying to ride on its phenomenal success in Metro Manila, where it opened at least 10 large stores in the past few years, entering mostly in the middle market choosing (to carry) "imported" but still affordable items.

Now why did William Co, who owns Price Smart, choose to sell to Pure Gold?

Actually, first to go to the negotiating table with William Co was the IM group of mall operator Henry Sy. The deal between William Co and the Sy family nevertheless fell through.

It's just that Lucio Co beat the SM group to the deal because he gave William Co the much better offer. I heard that it was all a matter of "pricing."

As for the existing members of Price Smart, which seemed to have run out of good merchandise, Pure Gold can surely bring in a wider selection of imported goods. Lucio Co certainly has established a track record in Pure Gold.

## More RP companies getting. . .

From page B1

"The more successful companies are those which fully incorporate CSR in their business models, and not just as peripherals," he said, adding that a lot of companies are lagging behind even where the largest business conglomerates all have successful advocacies targeted at the housing, education and social services sectors.

During yesterday's panel briefing, business leaders also said that the local business sector is said to shift their philosophies from engaging in CSR activities just to comply with social norms, but have begun to actually buy into the concept more wholeheartedly.

"It makes good business sense for clients to do so," said Susan Ivanovic of Management Association of the Philippines. He added that, contrary to popular perception, CSR is not only for large companies with money to spare but is also open to small firms which can spare other forms or resources like technical expertise and employee involvement in helping target communities.

Alliance pointed to the case of local coffee chain Figaro, which actively helps farmers in Cavite produce better coffee beans through technical support and livelihood assistance projects.

"What happens is that, they help the community, and in the process, also help ensure a steady supply (of coffee) for their operations," he said.

In addition, more firms have come to realize that they also need a "social license" from the communities where they are located on top of a legal license from government regulators if they are in cuts a successful operation, as in the case of the mining industry.

According to organizers, this year's CSR forum is being attended by 320 delegates from all over the region.

"This is our largest ever gathering," Ivanovic said, noting that less than 100 delegates attended the first CSR summit when it was first launched.

"This is a good indication of how CSR has gained the acceptance and interests of companies," he added.

## Stock prices steady

From page B1

nance level.

The composite index ended up 6.03 points at 2,329.68, after moving between 2,327.39 and 2,343.64.

The broader all-share index fell 0.8 point to 1,940.19.

Gainers narrowly beat losers 37 to 33, with 69 unchanged.

Turnover was 2.43 billion shares valued at P1.29 billion.

"I think the market is building a base before testing resistance at the key 2,400-point level," said Rommel Macapagal of Westlink Global Equities.

He said window-dressing as the July-September quarter draws to a close would likely push the market higher this week, but he added that positive leads would be needed to fuel a rise in the main index above 2,400 points.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., or PLDT, the most actively traded stock, fell P1 to P2,520 after its New York-listed American Depositary Receipts retreated $0.18 cents to $48.20 on Friday.

SM Investments gained P8 to P245, and Ayala Corp. rose P2.50 to P462.50.

San Miguel A-shares were steady at P65 and its B-shares also finished unchanged at P74.50.

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FROM COMBAT TO AQUACULTURE

Pamulay Karnia, a former member of the Moro National Liberation Front, tends to his fishpond stocked with tilapia (inset). Karnia has learned modern aquaculture techniques under the Targeted Commodity Expansion Program, an initiative that makes former MNLF fighters to engage in the production of tilapia, tapa-tapa and prawns. TCEP is being implemented under the USAID's Growth with Equity in Mindanao program.

# Population growth seen to offset rising income

## Expert adds income not equally distributed

By Christine A Gaylican

THE EXPECTED GROWTH in per capita income will hardly be felt in a country with a ballooning population, according to an economist from the University of the Philippines.

The country's population growth rate has hardly changed in recent years, said economist Arsenio M. Balisacan. It is estimated to be at a high level of 2.3 percent a year.

Meanwhile, other Asian countries, including Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam, are registering substantial declines in birth rates.

The continuing rise in the country's population will "eat up Philippine per capita income over the years," Balisacan said.

Balisacan said that the last official census was taken six years ago.

Balisacan and other economists pointed out that the government reports which had painted a rosy picture of the country's economic landscape had little basis in statistics growth in per capita income.

Balisacan said the government officials based their assumptions on the poor's appreciation and growth in the country's gross domestic product.

"There is not enough growth in our per capita income and this has not been equally distributed," he said.

Balisacan, who is also the executive director of Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (Seameo), said that the loss in economic growth happens to reflect low levels of productivity.

Aggravating the situation is the rapid growth of population, which requires more food supplies and more jobs with decent incomes," he said.

Also, Balisacan said, the country is still far from sustaining food security.

Compared to other Asian countries, the Philippines' agricultural productivity is much lower.

He said that poverty is further entrenched in the countryside because most of the total labor force—rising to nearly one-half if agri-based manufacturing and service sectors are included, according to study undertaken by Deseta.

# Coco export volume up 19% in 1st half

By Konrad W. Domingo

OFFICIAL FIGURES FROM the Philippine Coconut Authority showed that coconut exports in the first half actually grew in volume by 19.2 percent, 6.1 percentage points higher than industry estimates.

Last month, the United Coconut Associations of the Philippines said estimates pegged first-half growth at 13 percent.

However, UCAP accounting centers only major producers like coconut oil, copra meal, oleochemicals and desiccated coconut shipments, while that of the PCA includes coco shell charcoal, activated carbon, glycerine, fresh coconuts and other products.

Also, the PCA covers export of all producers nationwide, including non-UCAP members.

PCA data show that the total volume passed from January to June reached 1,510,457 metric tons in coco terms compared to 948,755 MT in the same period of 2005.

Coconut oil continued to be the top export, with shipments growing by 22.6 percent to 696,618 MT as of mid-June, while copra meal output grew by 20.4 percent to 243,383 MT.

Exports of desiccated or dehydrated coconut grew by 3.8 percent to 65,465 MT in copra equivalent, but outbound cargoes of oleochemicals and activated carbon barely grew at 0.3% percent to 58,670 MT, and 0.62 percent to 37,677 MT, respectively.

On the other hand, cargoes of products like coconut shell charcoal dipped by 10.4 percent to 11,894 MT; glycerine by 12.7 percent to 7,269 MT; and fresh coconuts by 26.4 percent to 1,113 MT.

Total shipments of other coconut-based products like beverages, canned and dairy goes by 3.6 percent to 13,907 MT. The PCA was not able to provide a breakdown for these products.

The PCA said June shipments dropped in volume by 14.6 percent to 213,814 MT and earnings slid as well by 14.3 percent to $89.9 million.

Coconut oil shipments in June were slashed by 23.1 percent to 90,556 MT and copra meal by 31.8 percent to 34,178 MT.

Exports of dessicated coconut rose 17.3 percent to 12,447 MT, and of oleochemicals by 47 percent to 4,002 MT in copra terms.

In June, the bulk of shipments of coconut oil and dessicated coconut went to the United States, copra meal to South Korea, and coco shells to Japan.


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# GFIs urged to put up P5B for agri ventures

GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL institutions are being urged to put up a P5-billion fund to finance joint venture partnership deals with the private sector on agribusiness projects.

According to the corporate banking strategy, the government will have to put up a "capital fund" which big businesses may tap to leverage them to go into agribusiness and open up job opportunities for small farmers in the countryside.

Sec. Emmi Magsaysay Jr. is urging President Macapagal-Arroyo to ask P5 billion a year and source the fund through the Development Bank of the Philippines and Land Bank of the Philippines.

"We have been pushing our businessmen to go into the information and communications technology sector, why not push them to go into agribusiness?" asked Magsaysay. "The capital fund can be a first step to enticing [businessmen]."

He said the money could be allocated by the government as equity for possible joint venture with big business entities such as the San Miguel Corp. and the Ayala Corp.'s Ayala Land Holdings.

He said the private sector should increase its involvement in agribusiness if the Philippines hopes to sustain food production, Christine A. Gaylican

# With repeal of EO 138, execs fear losing gains

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES Institute of the Philippines has urged Malacañang to restore Executive Order No. 138, warning that its repeal would lead to financial bleeding, and take the country further away from its goal of reducing poverty.

EO 138, issued during the Estrada administration, avoided out inefficiently managed government-funded social welfare programs that wasted resources, and to plan forward the genuine role of the private sector in providing financial services to the needy and the adoption of market-oriented interest rates on loans and deposits.

It thereafter Order No. 309 dated Aug. 6, President Macapagal-Arroyo repealed EO 138 entitled "Ensuring Government Entities Involved in the Implementation of Credit Programs to Adopt the Credit Policy Guidelines Formulated by the National Credit Council."

In a position paper dated Sept. 20, the 700-member organization said history had shown that the objectives of EO 138, as stable government agencies to supply credit to poor areas are rendered by financial institutions—was not effective in combating poverty.

"The government cannot afford to undertake a misguided lending program with such a huge drain on resources, [and] the lack of funding and poor track record in microfinance," the FINEX position paper said.

The group said EO 138 was the product of "hard lessons" learned by many past administrations.

"The main lesson learned which formed the impetus to overthinking EO 138 was that direct lending by government non-financial agencies to the agricultural and microenterprise sectors is costly in the form of huge fiscal costs from subsidized interest rates," FINEX said.

"In addition to this, there were poor repayment rates given the beneficiaries' thin, not necessarily, high administrative costs, distortionary subsidies and other inefficiencies that ultimately undermine the program's impact on financial markets caused by subsidized interest rates."

FINEX said EO 138 provided a policy environment which was conducive to private sector participation through the adoption of market-oriented financial policies.

"As a result, more and more private financial institutions extended credit to micro-entrepreneurs in a sustainable environment that now defies the participation of 105 private financial institutions, with a portfolio of P1.3 billion and an outreach of 600,000 beneficiaries," the group added.

The old EO promoted unsupervised and non-accompanying government financial institutions and state entities were also discouraged from providing credit services directly or indirectly to various sectors.

Even the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has expressed concern that, as a result of the repeal of EO 138, the government could have the hard won gains to recent months "that has dramatically improved macroeconomic prospects of the Philippines."


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# Central banks will soon stop selling gold

I KNEW ABOUT THE COUP IN THAILAND before anyone else. I received a message from the IDA asking 'Thanks, Thaksin'.

I spent a morning wondered something the Ryder Cup, which takes place every two years between the United States and Europe. Both sides pitch their 12-best golfers and it's one very exciting. On the first two days, they play foursomes, two against two, and Europe won 19-9. This shows that Europeans are much better at foursomes. The golf course is not really to blame. The investor is made of leather and they even have rules to rest your balls on.

The Philippines appears high on the list of countries with a high level of corruption as Kroll is producing a new cheese for the local market called Hyatt and Corruption.

You may recall that on Valentine's Day our 14th wedding anniversary I wanted to take my wife to the Enemy Spoon but it was closed due to typhoid. Since then, the manager has died of food poisoning but the chef took over and made sure the same low standard. All the dishes used to taste are delicious as well. The chairs and tables are bolted to the floor and the gutter are made of metal so you cannot smuggle them past the metal detector. But it is remarkably good value at P15,400 on an set. In case you think I am cashing this up, look it up on Google and you will see numerous testimonials by Enemy Spoon. There are even testimonials in the US and the UK and I would like to meet a franchise here. I am looking for entrepreneurs with capital. I already have a franchisee lining for it.

I am afraid that I am getting old. I just had a triple bypass, a hip replacement, new knee and cataracts. I've told them, 'one deaf ear and I take 40 medications that make me dizzy, out of breath and subject to blackouts. I have bouts of dementia, can't feel my hands and feet and due to Alzheimer's, I have lost all my friends. But, thank God, I still have my driver's license.

Last Thursday, I wrote a special article, which was in text, a scoop. This week, Correlated will post an in website an 18-page report by ABC Collier on Apec, which somehow, miss everything I wrote. The Norwegian company has obviously had its detailed research report ordered and approved by Hurricane President Joe Marcinko, otherwise it would not be appearing on Cyrex Gold's website. I was very careful not to buy any shares ahead of the write up.

I never recommend any stock without first doing my homework and then it probably why every recommended one, going back six years, has toppled or topped up at some stage. The cold rain out is TEL, up 19 times on my recommended price of P220.

Before I wrote up El Rapaso in 'The hottest stock in town.' I spent 2 days with its directors going around their offices in the Cayman Islands looking investing about the potential of coil exists to my knowledge of the subject was very shoddy. There is still plenty of gossip left, despite increasing competition, and I have no supports to selling Petra.

Similarly, I calculated the profit of El Arco in diamantes of copper and gold, published on the 19th and they went through the middle of the month except when they have two dispersion. As they will forward three months, I could calculate the profits almost exactly and I knew that at P1.64, the shares were selling on a P/E of 2 to 3 bid, subscribers to get in. I also met with two directors, who confirmed that my calculations were reasonable.

I have no wish to be regarded as a spam and so my recommendations come each to impact on the market, henceforth, I will confine my stock picks to the newsletter which I keep down to a small number deliberately. I will continue to write about global markets and try to talk to my base by including items of interest such as the one below.

The following article is a summary of a report, which appears to contain investment news and was sent to me by a friend.

The European Central Bank repeated on Sept. 29 that these central banks had decreased their gold holdings by $65.5 million in the week ending Sept. 15. At today's price, this equals 33 tons and puts September sales at 40 tons so far. The editor of the Swedish newsletter wrote, 'It's becoming clear that any suspicion that central bank selling is indeed a major factor behind the recent gold decline'.

The 15 central banks have now reportedly sold almost 300 tons, still substantially short of the 500 tons permitted by the agreement. This is not the largest sale this year: there were about 57 tons of gold sold in the week ending May 3, making 62 for the month. The average gold price in May was $650 per ounce, hitting $725 on May 12.

On the long September gold rally by 2006 averaged at about 5 tons a week. This month's sales of 40 tons have already surpassed the monthly average of 33 tons. The Rockefeller has not exercised its option to sell 120 tons this year.

Gianni Bulgarone, the newsletter's economic analyst, said of the sales, 'gold is now down to $540. Therefore, the entire European gold prices to get back above its key resistance of $640. He expects stocks to fall soon and that should provide the catalyst for a major rally in gold and silver.

Why does he expect gold to hit bottom this month? Well, it has to do with bond sales. Under the terms of the agreement, which extends to 2009, the banks must complete their selling by Sept. 27. After that, they cannot sell any more gold until 2007.

Over the past five years, world gold production averaged 4,020 tonnes a year, equal to about 12,900 tons. So the loss of 300 tons by the end of today is a remarkable percentage. With the end of the year less of their selling, I think that after this week, gold will recover.

One caveat upon the week ending takeover, uncertain whether to advance to 2007 or closer around the current level. Foreign buying has been consistent in high last week but we need today to turnover $40 bank to the P11billion mark, having reached 94 billion last week.

Please for the Manila stock exchange to that up with Bangkok here's no chance of.

mr.bearbull@hotmail.com

Mr. Bearbull

Ross Southwell

# IC to impose networth requirement

## Pure Foods sees higher sales in '06

SAN MIGUEL PURE FOODS CO. INC. SEE point to both P1 billion in additional sales this year from new products, company president Francisco Ciriaco del Rosario Jr. said at the company's special stockholder's meeting yesterday.

Aside said additional sales would come from new coffee products such as a new brewed coffee line, sweeteners, milk and ice cream.

Notable intense competitive pressure and a generally frail economic environment, San Miguel Pure Foods registered P24.9 million in consolidated revenue in the first half of 2006, 3 percent higher than year-ago level.

Better margins brought about by raw materials costs, and improved efficiencies resulted in a 12 percent rise in gross profit against year-ago level. Elizabeth L. Sanchez

## Philweb stake in ISM up to 40%

PHILWEB CORP., A TECHNOLOGY FIRM controlled by businessman Roberto Ongpin, has brought back its stake in ISM Communications Corp. (ISM) to 40 percent by buying back shares from a subsidiary of Hong Kong-based Softkrafts Investment Internet Limited (Softkrafts, ISM).

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Philweb said it had signed an agreement with ISM for Philweb's countless about 7.3 billion shares of ISM for P1.43 million, or P71.71 million to P99.91.

The amount due will be nonresidue, to be paid in quarterly installments of $500,043.25.

The share acquisition raised Philweb's ownership of ISM back to 40 percent. In July 2004, Philweb trimmed its 40 percent stake in ISM to 32.4 percent by selling 7.4 percent of its holdings to IGE Investment Holdings Ltd., a subsidiary of SEL for P86 million.

Alan P. Oliveros

## Stricter rules seen boosting public confidence in insurance industry

By Michelle V. Rivera

THE INSURANCE COMMISSION WILL SOON start imposing minimum networth requirements on insurance companies to help ensure the stability of the industry.

Insurance Commissioner Evangeline Escubio said the measure was contained in a Department of Finance memorandum order. The capitalization requirement on insurance companies.

Escubio said this was expected to regain and boost public confidence in the insurance sector.

The industry's credibility has been tainted by the liquidity problems encountered by certain pre-need insurance companies.

Under the measure, life and non-life insurance firms that are wholly owned by Filipinos will be required to have a minimum networth of P300 million starting Dec. 31, 2006, to be increased by P600 million per year until it reaches P300 million by Dec. 31, 2010. It will have to be raised further to P500 million by Dec. 31, 2013.

Those with foreign equity of 40 percent or less will be required to have a minimum networth of P700 million by Dec. 31, 2006, to be increased by P600 million per year until it reaches P600 million by Dec. 31, 2010.

Insurance companies with foreign equity of more than 40 percent but less than 60 percent will be required to have a minimum networth of P300 million by Dec. 31, 2006, to be increased by P100 million every year until it reaches P700 million by Dec. 31, 2010.

Firms with at least 60 percent foreign equity will be required to maintain a minimum networth of P500 million by Dec. 31, 2006, P600 million by 2007, P700 million by 2008, P850 million by 2009, and P1 billion by P2013.

Reinsurance firms will be required to have a minimum networth of P700 million by Dec. 31, 2006, to be increased by P200 million every year until it reaches P1 billion by 2010.

The required networth levels are contained in Department Order No. 27-06 issued by the DOF. The Insurance Agency of the IC. The order does require insurance firms to increase their capitalization by a minimum of P25 million a year over the medium-term.

The commission is here on pending through with the imposition of the requirement despite complaints raised by industry players, which they say some might force small insurance firms to close down for the disadvantage of policyholders.

The Philippine Life Insurance Association (Phil Life) said the stricter requirements would help further their help improve the stability of the insurance sector. The group cautioned that a gradual increase of P600 million per year would be too fast for the industry players to meet. It recommended that the increase be made gradual to ensure that smaller companies would not be forced out of business.

From the primary offering, about, RLC will answer it could generate P5.31 billion, which could fund the bulk of its capital expenditure program next year.

UBS Investment Bank as the sole bidding lead underwriter while ATR Kim Eng Capital Partners Inc. is the domestic underwriter.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

## RLC offer price set at P12/share

ROBINSONS LAND CORP. (RLC; ALT. ITS offer price at P12 per share, which was announced to raise P5.7 billion for the company and 10 selling shareholders.

The public offering involves 611.14 million shares, P60 million are new common shares and 561.1 million are secondary shares.

Trading of RLC shares was halted yesterday and would resume on Oct. 3. the listing date of its shares.

DHL's cargo aircraft land, sea and air transport delivery spearheader a more efficient service

## Logistics firm goes intermodal

By Rizz T. Olchondra

THE COMPANY'S INTERMODAL LOGISTICS system has set to reach its markets, but for producers, consignees and distributors, it has become the best way to go.

And it is no longer just a matter of having goods from one place to another. DHL president and CEO Lubin Alcalde said in an interview. He said that a company involved in the logistics business must ensure that the time of delivery is also shortened, security was tightened, and efficiency was improved to minimize wastage.

Current supply chain management (SCM) systems are typically linear and sequential, with decisions made randomly and changes typically take days and even months to execute. However, unlike by DHL based in Germany, it has developed a system that is more responsive to changes in the market, and is designed to be more flexible and adaptive.

In response, the company integrated its global network and its transport delivery system to a user-friendly interface. It also set up real-time monitoring of all components, complete with alerts whenever interference appear.

The system includes full advantage of the company's fleet capacity, which has enhanced the number of transport points from as many as 20 to over 1 K keeping with the times, DGO president Rodel Dante Terminal System.

"The system of moving cargo on holding trucks that go on land and idle at sea (through freighter vessels) reduces the amount of time spent on checking and minimizes the chances of pilferage because the cargo hold is opened only at the designated stop," Alcalde said.

## DISCLOSURES

**PHILIPPINE** Long Distance Telephone Co. has declared the dividend of $0.85 shares by senior vice president Rodolfo L. Diaz for P2,280 per share on Sept. 30.

**PREMIER COM.** has purchased 2,200 billion shares of Softbank Investment International (Mauritius) Limited in GDS Communications, Ltd. for $1.4 million. With this acquisition, Philplans ownership in GDS will increase to 40 percent. Compiled by Carlos Manuel, Pilar Manansala

Currency

| September 26, 2006 Currency | Unit | Peso Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Australian Dollar | 1 AUD | 0.7.7.0.0 | 1.0.0.0.0.0 | 38.3.0.0.0 |
| Japan | 100 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 |
| Canada | 1 CAD | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 |
| China | 1 CNY | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 |
| Denmark | 1 DKK | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 |
| Euro | 1 EUR | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 |
| Hong Kong | 1 HKD | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 |
| India | 100 INR | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 |
| Indonesia | 1 IDR | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 |
| Korea | 100 KRW | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 |
| Kuwait | 1 KWD | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 |
| Malaysia | 1 MYR | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 |
| Mexico | 1 MXN | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 |
| New Zealand | 1 NZD | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 |
| Norway | 1 NOK | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 |
| Saudi Arabia | 1 SAR | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 |
| Singapore | 1 SGD | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 |
| Sweden | 1 SEK | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 |
| Switzerland | 1 CHF | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 |
| Taiwan | 1 TWD | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 |
| Thailand | 1 THB | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 |
| United Kingdom | 1 GBP | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 |
| United States | 1 USD | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 | 0.0.0.0.0.0 |

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# BUSINESS

## Easing of micro lending rules seen

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS is willing to let banks exclude income tax returns from their list of requirements for lending but only for microenterprises or those with assets of P3 million and below.

The waiver of Bureau of Internal Revenue-stamped ITR for small-scale borrowers was among the measures proposed by the Export Development Council to the 2004 national competitiveness summit. This was aimed at increasing credit flow in the country.

The measure can be implemented through the revision of an issuance or rule that waived the ITR requirement for small-scale enterprises, or businesses with assets of more than P3 million but not exceeding P15 million, applying for bank loans.

But the BSP in a position paper said it wanted only micro-enterprises to be covered by the ITR waiver.

"An SME which has assets of at least P5 million should be responsible enough to file ITRs and submit copies of which for support their loan application," BSP managing director Toby Oreñeta said in a letter to the Export Development Council dated Sept. 7.

The BSP also begged out of the list of institutions that would be tasked with prodding lenders to develop venture capital financing programs for SMEs.

"This may be problematic for as as such programs involve greater credit risks and have no jobs with the BSP's responsibilities or regulation of the banking industry," Oreñeta said.

On regulations governing collateral requirements, she clarified that under present BSP rules, agricultural land was acceptable for loans granted by rural and cooperative banks. These are also acceptable for loans restructured by banks, provided it is supported by a Department of Agrarian Reform clearance.

In the meantime, the BSP rejected proposals to exempt SMEs from rules governing real estate mortgage and chattel mortgage.

"To exempt SMEs from these rules would increase risks of misallocation and may not be in accordance with good lending practice. We are therefore not in favor of this proposal," she said.

Difficulty in getting credit was among the factors that contributed to the Philippines' decline in global ranking in view of rising business to 126th from 111th, out of 175 countries.

Under the International Finance Corp.-World Bank's annual survey on doing business, access to credit is consistently rated by firms as one of the greatest barriers to operations and growth.

The 2005 survey suggested that access to credit might be expanded significantly by credit legislation—including that guides and disseminates information on credit histories. It added that effective regulations on secured lending—through collateral and bankruptcy laws—are another solution to credit constraints.

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## Waiver of ITR requirement planned for small enterprises

## FLI buying properties worth ₱12B

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FILINVEST LAND INC. (FLI) is expected to get the board nod to spend some P12 billion to buy equities in Filinvest Tower in Makati City and in Bridgeport Corporate Center and Northgate Cyberzone both in Alabang for P12.3 billion.

The deals are expected to allow FLI to tap into the high-growth mall and business process outsourcing businesses.

Company officials said the assets would be partly paid with 5.84 billion newly issued FLI shares worth P6.6 billion. Also, the company will assume P12.3 billion worth of debts of these properties to its parent firm, Filinvest Development Corp., and Filinvest Alabang Inc. in exchange for their interests in PBCom Tower, Bridgeport Corporate and Northgate Cyberzone.

PBCom Tower is a joint venture between Filinvest-backed Philippine Bank of Communications, Filinvest says it, in turn, will purchase 60 percent held by PDIC and 40 percent by Prospect of Singapore. FLI will acquire PDC's 60 percent stake in Filinvest Asia.

FLI will also buy BLD 300 percent stake in Bridgeport Mall.

Cyberscape Properties Inc. the owner and developer of The Northgate Cyberzone, is 60-percent owned by BLI and 40 percent by foreign investment firm Alticor Invest.

BLD 60-percent interest in the Cyberzone project will be acquired by FLI.

The planned acquisition will add more than 105,000 square meters to grow leasable area to FLI's portfolio.

The move will increase the company's asset base, diversify its income sources, and allow it to continue to participate in the booming BPO sector. The firm believes this move will provide strong and stable recurring revenues and add development potentials on existing revenue streams.

Cyberscape Properties Inc. (CPI), is 60-percent owned by PHI. It is a Philippine Economic Zone Authority-registered facility and was formed to own and develop IT buildings at Northgate Cyberzone.

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LIFESTYLE

Editor Chole Bunal-Formero Subeditor Editor Lito B. Zulueta

IN THIS ISSUE

Today is a present /C3

Have a peek on page C-3

# Mind-body techniques for everyday life

Ayn Inu

YOU MAY NOT KNOW THE difference between a chakra and asana but that doesn't mean you can't benefit from the holistic principles of yoga or other mind-body formats.

So even if you don't have the time or inclination to attend a yoga, tai chi or Pilates class, a simple technique inspired by these disciplines can help you ease the stress and tensions of everyday life.

The cornerstone of any mind-body practice is "breathe, relax and focus." This is true even for martial arts like kung fu or aikido. The best fighter is a relaxed fighter.

**Breathe**

Your breath is the bridge that links your mind and your body. If your breathing is rapid and shallow, it can trigger tension in the body and exacerbate stress in the mind. But if you slow down your breathing, both your mind and your body begin to relax. This appears to be an automatic physiological response.

So the first step to relieve stress is simply to slow down the breath. As you become more experienced, you will become aware of a "rising and sinking" feeling or an "expanding and contracting" movement in the ribcage and belly.

**Relax**

Part of the natural response to stress is tense muscles. "Boy is stuck if you are about to fight or flee" or the term is. But chronic muscle tension from chronic stress can produce a stiff neck, tight shoulders, clenched jaw and even tension headaches.

So you need to consciously relax your shoulder muscles while you breathe slowly. Picture your shoulders by gently drawing them away from your ears. Then, soften the muscles in the jaw and face. You will feel the tension literally melting away.

These two things—breathing slowly and relaxing your shoulders—will result in the third component of the "mind-body spirit": Mindfulness, which is an increased sense of focus and concentration.

WELL AND GOOD

Elena Jimeno

**Everyday stress**

It's not just the big decisions or events in life that can cause stress. Even simple things like making a grocery list or folding laundry can be stressful if you have to do it for the day you have you feeling blanked and anxious.

Try the "breathe, relax and focus" technique for daily situations that have the potential to stress you out. It's also a great way to end any time of the day or night, and it can make a significant positive change in your life.

You may not realize how tense your shoulders become as you furiously answer cell phone texts. It may be the squeaky of the mouse or the current trend that is causing you to clench our more stress hormones than your body needs.

But you can counteract this by relaxing shoulders and slowing down both your breath and the speed at which you are composing text messages. Tell text-happy co-workers you found a scientific article that said rapid-fire texts or e-mail replies that you will live to regret.

You can also use it to become more productive when you work on the computer. You will have fewer aches and pains in your shoulders, neck, hands and wrists, and your ideas will flow more freely.

Stress can start early in the morning when you are rushing to get dressed for work. Even if you overslept and are in danger of breaking into the work, rushing around your room is not going to do you any good.

That's when you see your pants because you are hurrying too hard, poke your eye while putting on mascara because your hand is trembling, and you have your closet upside-down because the outfit you want to wear is playing hide-and-seek with you.

Slow breathing and relaxed shoulders don't mean you move in slow motion. It might seem like time is moving down but you are actually using time because your mind is more concentrated on what you are doing. You avoid disasters like spilling coffee on your jacket just as you are heading out of your door.

Untangling twisted electrical cords or untying up a complicated wired system can leave you impatient and tormented. Before you become frustrated enough to throw things, settle down by breathing slowly, relaxing your shoulders and focusing on the job at hand. You will see the "solution" more clearly.

Bite-dying your hair or fixing high dishes in a closet can make your neck and shoulder muscles tense even if these activities don't stress your mind or emotions. It is possible that you are overdoing it. Try to see if you can prevent the tight knots that can develop from shoulder that are chronically worn as "warnings."

Cursing at "stupid" drivers who rudely cut in front of your car or change lanes without warning will not change the way these idiots behave. The only thing you have in your control is your response to the situation. You can either draw in toxic stress hormones or you can protect your health and sanity by practicing the simple mind-body techniques of "breathe, relax and focus." The choice is yours.

Visit www.wellandgood.com.ph

## Asymmetrical forward bend

# Monastic look for new spa

THROUGH THE YEARS THE SPA HAS become the place to go for the healing and rejuvenation of body and spirit. Its first branch in Acropolis has spawned three more. Each has different looks—seven minimalist in Acropolis, Tropical in Alabang, Moroccan in Bel-Air and Oriental Thai in Greenbelt.

The Spa recently opened its latest branch on the fifth level of The Podium. This time the inspiration for interior designer Ivy Mauricio and architect Pomaria Ong is monastic.

At the unveiling, Rita served fruit-and-mineral dishes. Executive manager Richard Ee, sales and marketing manager Rita Golda Blanco and branch head Aimee Roby welcomed the guests led by TV personality Lucy Torres-Gomez, along with The Spa's image model/TV host-actress Angel Aquino.

The new branch offers a complete array of relaxing and revitalizing treatments. Body massage therapies include Swedish, Shiatsu, Deep Tissue, Aromatherapy, Tuina, Volcanic Rock, Herbal, Thai and the traditional Silot massages.

For the head and shoulder there are Aromatherapy and Shirodhra massage, Indian Head Massage, and Moor Sun Rite and Scalp Treatments.

Facial treatment offerings include Aromatherapy Facial, Purple Mud Facial, Aloe Spa Facial, Pharmaceuticals Youth Facial, Pharmaceuticals Soothing Facial, Deckor Vitamin C Radiance Facial, Deckor Whole Restoring Facial.

HERBAL Massage gives body comfort and relief after a busy day at work.

Body care treatments to help the body detoxify and achieve vitality are Moor Mud Body Wrap, Aromatherapy Body Bath, Detoxifying Body Wrap, Indian Ayurvedic Body Treatment, Coffee Rub, Sea Salt Body Scrub and Honey Body Polish.

Foot care treatments include Oriental Foot Therapy, Peppermint Foot Rub and Thai Foot Massage.

The Spa has evolved from a treatment where one can have the best massage to a one-stop health facility with a modern mall setting. It has gone sunny in acropolis that boasts of the latest gym equipment and aerobics, yoga and Pilates classes plus a four-court badminton center.

The Spa is accredited by the International Spa Association and the Department of Tourism. Visit www.thespa.com.ph or e-mail thespa@thespa.com.ph.

NICMAL (more)

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BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY — BY PH JUNIOR

NUTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

LOVEHOOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHERMELO

ATOMO AND WEBBY — BY LISA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN MANALOSO

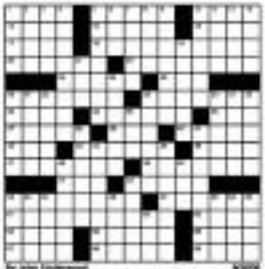
RIKO MACHINE — BY MARK ABEN

HOROSCOPOS — BY JOHN TEJOS

TULOON — BY NIPA JANDTUTUM PALAPIELAG

BBH — BY DANIEL BALTON

## DAILY CROSSWORD



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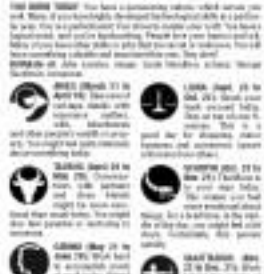


## CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 5 | 2 | 9 | | 3 | 6 | | |
| 6 | | | 4 | | | | 3 | |
| 7 | | | 6 | | | | | 4 |
| 2 | 1 | 8 | | | | | | 9 |
| | | | | 4 | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | | 7 | 2 | 6 |
| 8 | | | | | 4 | | | 3 |
| | 6 | | | | 5 | | | 2 |
| | | 4 | 3 | | 7 | 5 | 6 | |

Difficulty Level ★★

**HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU**

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 3 |
| 3 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 2 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 9 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| 8 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 7 |
| 2 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 4 |
| 6 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| 1 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| 7 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 6 |

# Living for the present moment

"No time like the present."
—Mary Manley

A POPULAR TEXT MESSAGE being passed around goes something like this: "Don't live over the past, it's gone. And worrying about the future makes today stressful. Instead, live for the moments. Today is a gift, that's why it's called the present."

### Stress vs the present

Living for the present moment is not possible unless one loosens the grip of fear. Other blocks to one's positive state of mind are the pain of past hurts or a person to make him unable to focus on the future.

Psychotherapist expert on holistic health Dr. Deepak Chopra says stress is one really about problems concerning reality. "Instead we feel unduly because we anticipate pain in the future or we feel depression, guilt or sorrow because we found our pain from the past. Freeing yourself of past and future relieves you of stress."

### Survival mode

Basic human survival is the concept of living in the present. To illustrate, here is a story:

Carla had fallen in love with Louie who lived in another country. Louie planned to come to be with Carla. But because he had business matters to close up, the transfer was taking longer than expected.

Meanwhile, Carla worried more as each day passed, like hours slowly consuming her. Finally there dreams of being together were forgotten! Worried she leave on he that case to move, give up her job!

The questions never ever. Set peace until Louie told her. Please do not forget that we are happy now. Things are okay between us."

This single statement gave Carla her moment of enlightenment. She learned that if one could focus on the present moment, lives could be lived more happily.

### Tips for living today

- Do the best you can now in preparation for the future.
- Put attention on tomorrow by planning things today.
- Once you have prepared well, do not worry about what has to be done tomorrow because you have done all there is to do today.
- Throw away your list of worries...a long list of who has hurt you and how many times. This will only weigh you down, says Jeff Davidson, author of "Breathing Space."
- By doing so, you need not worry about losing your spouse, job, home, sanity, health, because you have already done your best.

### Exercise one

Distancing/stop worry:

Write a letter (which you will never send) to somebody whom you trust. Describe your concerns, fears, etc. Just let the feelings flow. As you write, insights will surface to guide you.

### Exercise two

Life themes:

List down 12 major turning points in your life. Write for 15 minutes about any one of them. Put away what you have written. Next day, write once more. After reading three episodes of your life, re-read them and see if there are any similarities in themes.

### Life message

The only antidote for stress and its (human) effects on our lives is harmony. This harmony can be achieved by being aware of gaps in your life and how it is working in your life—harmony that is both inner and outer.

For one cannot possibly create outer harmony without inner peace and inner grace.

### Calming facial mask

Relax a warm cup of water. Add a few moist leaves. Chew a sprig of mint. Slowly sip the mint water.

In a blender, add half a cucumber, 1 tablespoon of milk and mint leaves. Once well mixed, apply onto your clean face. Leave on for seven minutes. Relax and refresh!

### Affirmation

"Today, I will live like never before."

Love and light!

Reference: "How To Master Change in Your Life" by Sherry Carroll Moore

**INSIDE OUT**
*Gary Quinlivan*

If you have done all there is to do today, there's no need to worry about what has to be done tomorrow

# Do-it-yourself foot pampering

GIVE YOUR LEGS AND FEET SPECIAL needed relief by indulging in an invigorating pick right in the comfort of your home or favorite mall.

Jon Zest, maker of high-quality affordable personal care products, has launched the Do-It-Yourself Foot Spa. The set consists of Peppermint Foot Soak, Peppermint Foot Scrub, Peppermint Foot Lotion and Peppermint Foot Fragrance.

The scrub (P180) helps soften the heel's rough edges while the oil nourishes and cools. To use, dissolve 2-3 teaspoons of soak in a basin of warm water for 15-20 minutes. Rinse thoroughly and pat dry.

Exfoliate dead skin cells with the scrub (P200) that contains apricot kernels and tea tree oil. Apricot kernels slough away dry rough skin while the antibacterial action of the tea tree oil fights off bacteria. Massage wet feet, particularly heels and toes. Rinse with warm water and pat dry.

Follow the procedure with the lotion (P200) infused with soothing aloe vera and Vitamin E. It moisturizes and hydrates the feet. Using circular motions, massage feet and legs. Use daily, if possible.

Finish off with the spray infused with eucalyptus and tea tree oil.

Jon Zest Do-It-Yourself Foot Spa is available in all Jon Zest carts and kiosks in SM North Edsa—Skin, Aesara, and The Block; Robinson's Galleria, SM Mall of Asia, SM Sta. Rosa, Bel-Air Megamall, Festival Mall, SM Bacoor, SM Valenzuela, Robinson's Ermita, Glorietta, and SM Make.

# Coconut book is out

"COCONUT: THE Philippines' Money Tree" is now off the press.

The 256-page coffee-table book, the first of its kind, was written by Dr. Honorio M. Labadan, who was named in 1979 one of Ten Outstanding Young Men for agricultural science, a graduate of the University of the Philippines, he did post-graduate studies in the science do Manila University, University of Idaho, and Cornell University in New York.

The book outlines the many uses of the coconut from the roots to the leaves. Among its contents are Tracing the Roots of the Coconut Tree, The Tree of Life, The Philippine Coconut Husbank, The Bountiful Shelter, Renewable Biodiesel Fuel, and The Remarkable Virgin Coconut Oil.

Copies of the book will be available at Agribah Oct. 4-7, Manila; telefax 925-4259; or call 0905-7139922.


**MEDICard.** The Healthcare I Deserve!

*Take Charge Doc!*

*What are the most common causes of cirrhosis in the Philippines?*

*Get these cute pillows with any purchase of Prokids!*

1. Promo Period: September 4 – December 31, 2006
2. Consumers may join by simply collecting proofs of purchase with listed points of Prokids Premium Baby Diapers with Soft Cottony Magic Tape. Points per packaging are as follows:

| Prokids Baby Diapers (with Soft Cottony Magic Tape) | Listed Points |
|---|---|
| 1 Mini Pack (4s) | 1/4 points |
| 1 Big Pack (24s, 32s, 36s, 40s, 56s) | 1 point |
| 1 Value Pack (68s, 80s, 90s, 96s, 104s) | 2 points |

3. Consumers must collect eight (8) points to be able to get one (1) collectible baby pillow design using the corresponding value points.

| Pillow Designs | Points |
|---|---|
| A. Bear<br>B. Pig<br>C. Cat<br>D. Snoopy | 8 points each |

- Only entire wrappers with intact panels of Prokids Premium Baby Diapers with Soft Cottony Magic Tape will be accepted.
- Entries containing cut-out parts will NOT be honored.

4. Submit the required Prokids Premium Baby Diapers with Soft Cottony Magic Tape wrappers together with the complete information: sender's name, complete address where you want the collected items delivered, baby's name and sex, age of your baby, pillow design/s desired, signature or thumbmark of the mother. Write all the above-mentioned details on a piece of paper and enclose in an envelope. For hard-to-find locations, landmark information of the address is encouraged for easy reference.

5. Entries can be mailed or hand carried to:

"Prokids Pillow Pals" c/o
JRS Corporate Headquarters, Inc.
21st Floor, Multinational Corporate Center
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center
Pasig City

"Prokids Pillow Pals"
P.O. Box 16268 Pasig City

6. The chosen premium item/s will be delivered by JRS Express to the address submitted by the consumer. In the event that the entry sender is not present during the time of delivery, a member of the sender's household may be asked to sign as proof of delivery and receive the premium item/s in behalf of the entry sender.
7. Entries that are qualified fifteen (15) days after the promo period.
8. Premium items will be delivered until sixty (60) days from the end of the promo period.
9. Consumers may join as many times as they want.
10. Prizes are not convertible to cash.

For more information, please visit www.prokids.com

JRS EXPRESS

GUEST of honor Executive Secretary Ed Ermita with Canadian Ambassador Peter Sutherland and wife Jo-Lynne

TIME correspondent Nelly Sindayen and Canadian Embassy political counselor Sylvie Rheault-Rivera

CANADIAN trade commissioner Francis Lily introduces Nancy Chadiphone and Sherri Jarvis, who will promote the Canada's quality education

BALLADEER Jose Mari Chan and wife Mary Ann Ermita

FIL-CANADIAN soprano Joanna Gerong the Philippine and Canadian national anthems

LEAH Navarro, a long-time resident of Toronto, sings

# Oh Canada!

HOSTS Hotel unit pub Vicky Herrera and Eric Cua, with his here, actress Michelle Perimbuan

EVERYONE MARKED AS A MUST-GO-TO happening the fabulous celebration of Canada Day.

Well, as soon as I breezed into the grand ballroom of the former New World Hotel, now the spacious, upbeat, Renaissance Makati Hotel, my eyes were greeted by rows of eye-catching swirls of red and white.

The colors of the Canadian flag were decorated in the ceiling decor, the colorful flower arrangements, and the lights. The ballroom was packed elbow to elbow, with over 600 bonafide business from the diplomatic set, the arts, government, business and media.

Naturellement, the place de resistance was the excellently prepared Canadian-themed menu. Check this out, palanggas: salmon, imported Canadian beef, the best wines, plus desserts with maple syrup.

Aptly chosen Fil-Canadian Brenda Uy took reasonable center at the Canadian embassy introduced some talented Filipino-Canadian performers who provided live entertainment.

In his short speech spoke a mere of the bubbly with the guest of honor, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Belinda Bautista, Canadian ambassador to the Philippines Peter Sutherland said, "Canada's 400,000 citizens and residents of Philippine origin are experts in their country of birth, and their presence home country, Canada."

Helping make the happening a total success were "behind-the-scene" but persuasive Council Philippine Servers, worldwide public affairs officer Cindy Migueras, and program assistant Princess Apostol, palanggas.

GUEST of pair Shoi Kamura's Tina Tinio and Corinne Dimlan Concepcion

TESSA Dragon and Cristina Garcia

GETSCAPER Mick Quinn and Shoi Kamura's Gigi Gonzalez-Quan

## Exotic shopping place

Looking for new flavors and tastes? Seeking exceptional trinkets and accents?

Well, palanggas, Shops at Serendra might just be the place with its exciting shopping and dining establishments.

A haven of exotic flavors and distinctive finds, Shops at Serendra combines style and convenience.

"This is not your regular mall," says G Ana, Shops at Serendra's Ayala Land Inc. senior division manager. "We featured an one-of-a-kind stores and specialty shops with concepts that have never been seen or tried before."

"Shops at Serendra is another cutting-edge project for the Ayala Malls," adds Ayala Malls vice president for operations Ramona Bondoc. "It will feature authentic and unique restaurants and specialty shops in a setting that is relaxing and intimate."

The shopping place also gathered some of the most authentic flavors, both homegrown and international, such as Sonoma, which is known for its excellent Filipino-Asian restaurant, Gourdi, known for its cupas and other Spanish delicacies; Mes Tables, which serves Asian dishes; Polo Eat Grill, which is favorites; Mesa Luna, plus tons of other stores and great lifestyle destinations.

Check out Shops at Serendra, palanggas. I promise you it will definitely be a pleasurable, awesome experience. After all, it's the only one of its kind in the country today." At least!

ALEXANDRA Tinio, flanked by Claire Sandin-Chaloco and Xiong Zobrette

BLUEBERRYMAN Ray Tinio and wife, fashion plate Mary Ann Cuenca T.

DEM Mes, L'Dance's sultry beauty Mebs Mappis, Mel-Mel Limon and JR Gervasio

THE POPULAR Guess men's Crissy Castillo, with Nelia Dee, Sandra Fernandez and Gail Palmani

PHOEBELA Barrameda, Benjie Angeles and Jane Klingler

THE POWERMAKERS: Oscar Salvacion, Angie Larson, head of Ayala Land Premiere; Anabelle Wisniewski, EVP and group head; Miriam Kashgak of Ayala Malls Group; and Lito Tambunan, EVP of Ayala Land Inc.

NAIA Tropics' Gigi Dans, Gr Leonardo Mangahas and Ben Jordan

CHCAD'S Ricky and Bubu Andres

ALEXANDRA and Francisco Cachu of Gaudi, one of the top Spanish restos

MAKATI Shangri-La's handsome vice president, general manager, raw chairman Philippe Cavard, and senior executive commentator Claude Tayag

LOBBY Lounge's Hamsa Damangan, relishes Lydia and Mona Limon, who shared Pampanga delicacies for the Filipino Tea

TWO generations of Tayags: "Among Chi-ing" and Bonor

TEA lovers Robert Lilles and wife Cecile

GLENDA Barrozo

TERESA Peters Pables and Jocelyn Reyes

with a cute teddy bear evening a red jacket on the plush carpet. Philippe C. himself purchased the two delicate silver and dark classic Pendgwood chairs to complete an afternoon tea setting like no other, palanggas.

As we sipped our tea, we had a gorgeous view of the awesome sculptures by artist and gourmet Claude Tayag. The seven superb pieces titled "Seven" depicted scientists, jugglers and other performers in typical seven lines.

As novelist Henry James noted, "There are few hours in life more agreeable than the hour dedicated to the ceremony of afternoon tea."

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH
Maurice Arcache
Photos by Alex Van Hagen
using Kodak Easy Share

# ENTERTAINMENT

THE DIVINE Kuh ang (in) Ponce Anderson in the gold. JHOEL PADUGA

## 'Stop the Killings'

### Bar tour with a cause kicks off at '70s Bistro

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

REVIEW

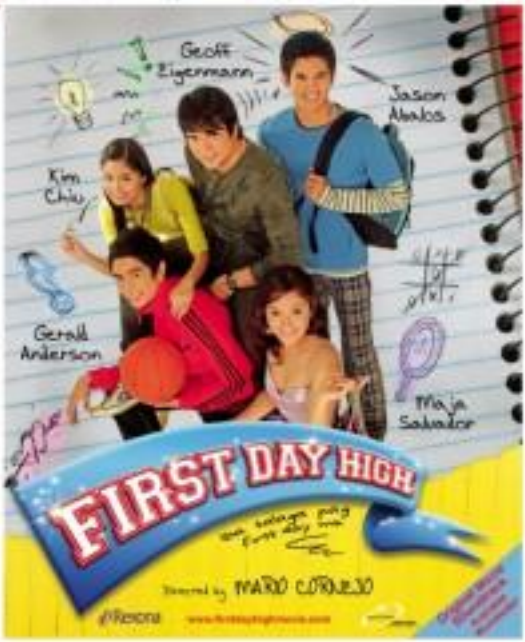
THURSDAY NIGHT, the '70s Bistro was bursting at the seams.

The size of the crowd—composed of young and old office professionals as well as their sons and daughters, social workers, students, artists, musicians and, most especially, media people—was indeed double the club's capacity. Everyone had come to express solidarity with the night theme, "Stop the Killings."

It was organized by a group of Bistro habitués led by television columnist Cherie de Quiros. Someone recalled that while Dr. Quiros was reeling about the recent death of three members of the ABC 5 TV crew in a road killing, this concern takes shift to another kind of violent death—the kind suffered by journalists and activists.

But rather than stage a protest through the usual rallies, the Bistro group opted

STAR 12A



# When bondage gets in the way of bonding

JEANCHO'S son crosses him.

KAI PALMARES, THE MOM of Aeryhn Ponsaran's four-year-old namesake, wants to clarify that there's too much to this rumor that she's suing Aiko. "We are just trying to iron matters regarding the birth certificate of Aiko. We are trying to have it so Aiko-Mommy Ryza can get custody of her. Besides it's outside of our hands. It's practically in the court," she explained.

That's just a technicality. What Kai is really fighting for is her son's wish to have quality time with his dad. "Iyana and I haven't seen Ryhn for three months now. All our text attempts to spend time alone with his dad without Aiko's [Evangelista] life is in a stage wherein he wants my undivided attention and Aiko's, too. We don't have an open communication as of now as I asked the help of a lawyer. Maybe then Aiko will have a peaceful life. Ryhn deserves to see Iyana anytime. For now, Iyana requests Ryhn ang dad niya nag-bonding naman [him]. The same thing goes for me. Ryhn doesn't want to see my boobs. I hope Aiko and I can do it for our son."

Kai stressed that she has nothing against Heart. "I am even thankful that she accepted Aiko. I just hope she will respect my son's wish to see his dad without her interest." It's really hard when bondage is a significant other gets in the way of bonding with your own flesh and blood.

## Anyare ba

"It's Bored" picked up my item about Eric Villanita landing a network [spot]. Iya nanambot nimo. I respect that. But why the sarcastic remarks and defensive tone? Ohhh! Ako read the entire in that column item of mine which said, "Could it be just a case of mistaken identity?"

Whenever way the tides at it, that's still publicity for her. Too bad she took it the wrong way. She even went to the extent of saying that I might have something personal against her. How preposterous! I remember the time she called me and I still had TV shows on IBC 13, Siti Sarapud! Isn't such ather a lot and even had the same make-up artist [Mong]. She was so sweet and friendly. Sad to say, I couldn't see any trace of the lyd I used to know in the "TV Guide" interview.

In my previous column, I clarified that the GF of the network executive just happens to look like her. But no word from his ang-mom. Shoo ba isa enough celebrities like her who fancy about a wang-wang "prik" but who don't know how to appreciate the mere mention of their name by others. What a sense of persona! Grabe ngani!

## Ooh la la Ruffs

Ruhe Interiorscape is proud to bring "America's Next Top Model" newest international version: "Philippines' Next Top Model." So, Dolly Cardenas the show hosting than Ruffa Gutierrez. She can still give rump models even for their money even after having two kids.

"This show turns at the right time. I have the blessings of "Binan [Bedrias]. I will shuttle back and forth from Turkey. I think it's important for a woman to have her cues model. Why give up you dreams just because you're not [married] already?"

She's raring to do the show. "I'm excited to model the creations of our young talented local designers. Every other I'm not on TV, I make it a point on makapresent pa rin ako. In Turkey, I went from even to the neatest [laughs]!" Whether in the market as a telecomm or in the studio as a local actress, Ruffa has maintained her market value.

## 'New & Forever' 7

GMA 7 takes viewers to a different level of intense drama with a touching story of love, loss, rage and redemption in Forever as "Pure & Forever" (Season 7) presents "Imagel" (also "Pinakamamahal" in Dimasalang in Hapon), topbilled by Jennylyn Mercado and Dennis Trillo. It's Dennis Gil's first project in the Kapuso network. Directed by Michael de Mesa and Mark Ell are also with GMA now. The Gil-ayo alike with the sound of applause for their superb acting. As for the lead stars Jen and Dennis, still they fall for each other not just in the TV series? Why not? If they want it badly enough to happen, it will.

## Gridiron

Fleetwood Mac Clubs traditional Gridiron will be held on Sept. 27, Wednesday, at the Manila Hotel. This year's presentation is entitled "Three Big Problem at the Palace." Directed by Butz Aquigana, the show has for its cast members of the SPC and media personalities. President Arroyo has confirmed her attendance. For tickets, call 5003021 or 5003020.

## Monk's turns 4

Prince of Jazz Richard Monk is ecstatic that his Monk's Bar & Bistro is celebrating its fourth anniversary on Sept. 27 with an open house. Over and above their unique cuisine and sweet live entertainment, it's Richard and his wife Rizel's fund-raising concerts (for their colleagues in need) that make Monk's a cool haven.

Personal: Many thanks to all my friends, execs and colleagues who remembered my birthday. I celebrate my visita kec dako-lakot with your friendships. I look back and look ahead smiling because of all of you. Special thanks to ZT for making me the happiest birthday girl on earth.

E-mail: entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

RICHARD Gomez

# Goma learned a lot —flipping burgers

By Joe Pilar de Jesus
Contributor

APOLOGIZING OR NATIONAL television is a dress friend he repeatedly offered but turned TV talk show host-actor Richard Gomez more pegi points than he could ever imagine.

But amid all the intrigues and stress-inducing incidents that come with his profession, Richard has gone that he has matured really well.

This he credits to the "humble" years he spent as crew member for McDonald's, his first employer. It was in the food chain, he said, that he learned the value of hard work, camaraderie and discipline.

"I worked there for more than a year, fresh from high school. My friends and I were initially looking for a summer job but I stayed in, managed and managed. But [was] satisfied at," he said.

That was in 1981. Richard's wife was only two years old in the country and had four sisters—Greenhills, Monsters, Cubao and Makati, eight hours when was that called Quad Division, now part of Cubao kicks mall.

"I was living with my grandmother in Makati so that was the nearest branch. I remember there were fewer buildings in that area at the time," Richard said.

Now, as the food chain celebrates its 25th year anniversary, Richard still remembers the menu used by crew members for each task assigned.

"I was part of the group on morning shift called the opening," he said. "We opened the store at 6 and we had to be there at 7. My first assignment was the counter but I also worked the all-in-one line."

Being an efficient crew member, he was eventually assigned to other stores. He was among the first to go to the Greenhills or Monsters branch if they needed extra crew.

"We had two rules to follow," he recalled. "First, clean as you go. It meant keep your work station clean at all times. Second, 'first in, first out,' which means the first product cooked should be the first product served."

Richard said it was all about discipline—being on time, working fast, being efficient, never wasting a moment, or the customer gets up. This he learned the value of teamwork, of camaraderie.

All these traits he carried into show business when he was discovered by Douglas Quijano and W Talent Management.

Despite the hard-set intrigues, he remains the ideal father to Iyana and husband to Lucy. With them, he remains, so to speak, rooted to his past.

The actor just some of his fellow crew members at the food chain's Makati branch are still in touch with him. "We are friends up to now. Two of them I still see regularly. They are successful businessmen already."

People behind McDonald's never tell anyone of Gomez's ones with them. When he became a show biz heart-beat, they got him for a TV commercial. It had a touching scene that hit the target number in the heart. Speaking as a crew member manning the counter, Gomez's line was, simply, "I used to work here."

# 'Stop the Killings'

From page D1

nothing could be more powerful...at least vocally— than music.

Where the clearly limit such 'n' will commissary at the Metro area told about this, the response was positive and supportive. And so many bands wanted to play, so the idea of a fun-raiser was birthed.

Thursday's gig was the kickoff leg.

Gary Granada needed no backup, opening the show with his customary humor and wit. He joked, "Maraming ang nawalay ng organizers, e. Obo pagbasi, as comedy ako..."

After seeing through jarred up renditions of "Kahit Konti," "Buwisaya Umaliw" and "Bahay," the prolific singer-songwriter began playing a faux vibrato lyrics would serve as a friendly reminder to the Mdo Commission. "Pasaro mahirap...Ibang ang mangbuhuli at hinahuli/Ay magkakampi..."

GARY Granada: "Ubos pagbasi, e."

## Really a celebration

Kea everything heard that night alluded to alleged military atrocities and human rights violations. The underlying message of it all, was to counter the culture of death and violence by celebrating the joy of life through live music.

Musicians before the Union played a five-song set, vocalist Jen Rastgen said, "Wow, parang '80s, it's in, pa lang ang dami na ng fan." It should be remembered that Teddy Diaz, the band's founding guitarist and moving force, was himself a victim of violence, having been stabbed to death by a crazed lowlife. Though inactive for some time, it was heartening to see two of the surviving original members (Dragon and drummer Richonel) spring back to life and play old and new material with Diaz's able replacement, Francis Reyes, and the latest recruit, bassist Buddy Zabala.

The Jocks, a band that has been around longer than the Dawn, sounded fresh and invigorating as though Chrissy Puno and Nino Adriano, two founding members, had never gained weight or suffered failing eyesight.

The rest of the performances...from Gasol, which to Sugarfree to Radioactive Yugo Project to Brainwash Festival... kept the audience glued to their cramped spaces. Not a few broke into dance, singing along with the stellar refrains, or laughing out loud from a stinging lyric.

It was amazing to watch Color it Red's Cecky Chua acting as a production assistant, every now and then reminding the next band, "O, kaya na natin'to?..."

What's next? The plan is to keep the bar tour running around the city and maybe even to network, and hopefully have it culminate in a grand gig sometime in December.

"Siyam (December 10)," said one of the organizers. "Human Rights Day."

Better yet, only when the killings stop.

BAMPUNO Harangan and Sarabelen

SUGARFREE

BRAINWASH Revival

COMBADO de Quiros

THE DAWN

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2 TWILIGHT DANCERS
3 STEP UP
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7 MAXIMO OLIVEROS THE WICKER MAN
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10 CRANK

### ERMITA

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4 MAXIMO OLIVEROS CRANK
5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE SCOOP
6 THE BREED
7 TALLADEGA NIGHTS Sneak Preview

### METRO EAST

1 CRANK
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 THE BREED
4 STEP UP
5 RESERVE
6 TWILIGHT DANCERS
7 DEAD OR ALIVE
8 YOU ARE THE ONE

### NOVALICHES

1 TWILIGHT DANCERS
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 DEAD OR ALIVE

### CITYSQUARE MALABON PIONEER

1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 ETERNITY
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 STEP UP
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 THE BREED

### STA. ROSA

1 CRANK
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 THE WICKER MAN

### LIPA

1 CRANK
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 SPL
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE

### DASMARIÑAS

1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 THE WICKER MAN
3 TWILIGHT DANCERS
4 CRANK

### ANGELES

1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
2 STAY ALIVE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 BASIC INSTINCT 2

### IMUS

1 THE WICKER MAN
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 TWILIGHT DANCERS
4 STAY ALIVE

### STARMILLS

1 SCOOP
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
4 ETERNITY
5 SNAKES ON A PLANE
6 CRANK

### BACOLOD

1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
5 BINIBINING K
6 KUBRADOR

### ILOILO

1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 YOU, ME AND DUPREE

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SHOWTIME EVENT CALENDAR

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## ROUNDUP

### Dengue on 'Probe'

THIS WEEK 'PROBE' reports the dengue outbreak is part of Metro Manila, Rizal, Bulacan and other cities nationwide.

It debunks misconceptions about the disease and affirms that prevention is definitely better than cure.

The show also follows 10 Artists from Hacienda Luisita, Pampanga who will go down in history as "the first Arts Overseas Skilled Workers."

The 40 days, the batch of Artes endured being away from family and without cable or TV to cope inside the Clark migrant facility to attune to learn the basics of Singapore Gan 'Shiddang, a special method of welding metals.

The episode airs on Sept. 27 at 11 p.m.

### 'Rollergirls'

'Rollergirls' is the rollicking, real-to-reel show that puts viewers on the fast track of the Roller Thunderdome.

The five-team, all-girl league of tough and very young athletes put to shame anything fictional.

Every non-scripted episode follows the women as they square off against each other on the track and their hectic everyday challenges with boyfriends and bosses off-track.

The show airs on Channel V (sneak-see at 8 p.m., Sept. 27 at 4 p.m. and Sept. 30 at 8 p.m.

### 'Grey's' Vs 'CSI'

LOS ANGELES—ABC's spunky hospital hit "Grey's Anatomy" performed a savage transplant on the CBS procedural crime show "CSI" on Thursday as two of television's hottest dramas went head to head for the first time.

The season premiere of "Grey's Anatomy," a newcomer to the Thursday schedule, topped the night with 23.9 million viewers overall—three million more than "CSI"—and scored the No. 1 rating among adults aged 18 to 49, the group most prized by advertisers, Nielsen Media Research reported on Friday. Reuters

### South Park Season 10

LOS ANGELES — Talk about a star-studded arrival. Tom Cruise, Jennifer Lopez, Steven Spielberg and Paris Hilton. Mel Gibson [illegible] showed up.

But this was the launch party for the 10th season of "South Park" and the celebrities were cardboard cut-outs.

No matter, the smiling caricatures still loomed large along the red carpet at the Thursday night affair to celebrate the controversial hit[illegible] airing on Comedy Central series. The program first aired Aug. 13, 1997, and begins its new season Oct. 4. AP

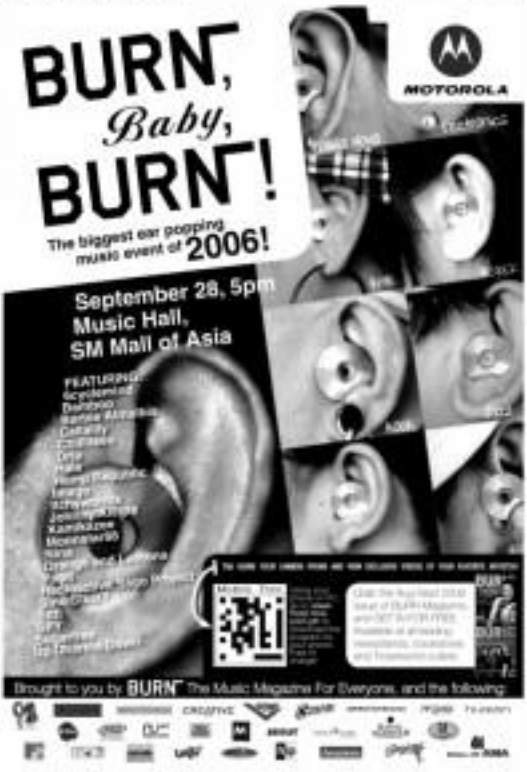
## Audioslave's 'Revelations'

Critics describe "Revelations," Audioslave's third album, as the fashion ever produced by the band.

"Revelations" presents a more overtly politic inclination, particularly via the song "Wide Awake," a scathing condemnation of the Bush administration.

The CD album, released under Sony BMG Music Entertainment, is now on sale in leading record stores. The first few hundreds to purchase copies from Tower Records and Music One outlets will get free audioslave t-shirts and lighters.

Audioslave is composed of singer Chris Cornell, guitarist Tom Morello, bassist Tim Commerford and drummer Brad Wilk.



# 'Imahe Nasyon' made by 20 indie filmmakers

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE PRODUCERS of "Imahe Nasyon," an omnibus film featuring works of 20 independent filmmakers, are looking into the possibility of having the movie screened in schools all over the country, said line producer Jim Libiran.

"Imahe Nasyon," produced by Digital Wire and Pelikula, premiered at the Robinsons Galleria digital theater on Friday night.

"We wanted the 'Imahe Nasyon' to have a regular run in theaters. We also plan to have a school tour, hopefully with some of the 20 filmmakers present to interact with the students," Bad, also a filmmaker, told Inquirer Entertainment before the premiere.

"Imahe Nasyon" was conceptualized to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the People Power revolt on Edsa, and "celebrate the struggle and growth of Philippine independent cinema for the past 20 years," said Bad.

The participating filmmakers are Lav Diaz ("Naay Manipestasyon, Hindi"), Raymond Red ("Metalang Ennerse (Sedista)"), Brother ("Un Petit"), Neil Daza ("Rizalizing Edsa") Ellen Ramos ("Speed Men"), Robert Quebral ("Bawale"), Jhorie Villafuerte ("One Shot") Mes De Guzman ("Trinidad"), Jiped Lee ("Ang Himagsikan"), Emmanuel Avila Cruz ("Imagining Edsa").

Lyle Sacris ("Dilubio") Milo Abo Jiz ("Ungaw"), RA Rivera ("Public Service Announcement"), Sigfrid Barros-Sanchez ("Mayon Star"), Tad Limtiaco ("Local Unit"), Eiji Ingatan ("130mnsec"), Feldoray Arnaiz ("Between Intersection"), RJ Salvado ("Tatdell"), Teresa Enguinado ("Bruha-ha") and Yam Laranas ("Sibol").

The two-hour film is the first major project of the newly formed Independent Filmmakers Cooperative (IFC). Last month, the IFC, in cooperation with ABC 5, spearheaded the trip of 15 filmmakers to Guimaras Island to shoot a 10-minute short film each about the oil spill in Western Visayas. The project, titled "Bolig Guimaras" will commemorate in a three-day festival at the Robinson's Galleria from Oct. 13-16.

**What's the inspiration behind this omnibus film?**

It was conceptualized one day in January while my wife, Carol, and I were thinking about what project to do next. We realized that our eldest will be 20 years old soon and that the People Power in Edsa is celebrating its 20th anniversary too. Along that line, we also thought that the events in indie filmmaking for the past 20 years were crucial to its development.

We thought, "Why not make a project to commemorate these events?" Then some afternoon, I found myself talking with my brother Raymond (Carmen who ran for his short film, "Anino") and Lav Diaz who both agreed to participate in the project. By 4 p.m. I'm partnering with Vincent del Rosario of Digital Wire, pitching the idea. He told me to formalize the project by putting it on paper.

The idea is not entirely new. There were others who thought of doing this before. The only difference is that "Imahe Nasyon" pulled through. Firstly, because there's a producer here enough to finance it. Second, there were 20 directors who committed to the project.

**How did you pick the participating filmmakers?**

The first list of directors numbered 200. To be honest, we wanted to get them all, but we had to be practical. We narrowed them down to 20. Carol and I weren't thinking as producers when we chose who to include. We thought like how the members of the audience would think. We know we don't have to justify this. Let's just say these are the filmmakers whose works we want to see on screen. There'll be more opportunities for the others.

**Were there guidelines that the directors followed?**

A "love letter" may have we called the memo we sent the filmmakers that contained these questions. Are any primetime no or nonpoint saying endorsing 20 (not) like-minded her? Knowing? Give film for? Edsa's any people And 10s- the turning eyes.

What we wanted was for the directors to come up with something personal. We didn't want textbook answers. Every opinion or vision was valid.

Ideally, we decided each short film should only last the viewer to five minutes, but some were as long as eight minutes. That's not so bad. The film's total running time is still two hours.

**How much money was allotted for the entire film?**

Digital Wire financed the project for less than a million. A filmmaker was given only P50,000. This was because we still had to spend for processing, production, promotion and similar concerns.

**Why is actor Ping Medina in all of the stories?**

Ping is the thread that binds all the stories. Initially, he was supposed to perform only one character, but he later assumed multiple roles. All three roles depict the struggle of a 20-year-old youth.

Ping is the baton-twirling indie actor now. We want him to represent the face of the youth today. We know working with 20 different directors is a risk. They needed a common denominator.

**What can viewers expect from the film?**

"Imahe Nasyon" is not an easy film to watch. Here, we shall see the personal vision of each filmmaker.

Since we gave guide questions to the 20 filmmakers, we might expect these questions to be answered here. But after seeing the film, it is also heartening if potentially think the viewers will have more questions. I think this is a good thing. Having more questions don't mean we learned nothing. This will simply encourage us to discuss the topic. So that's one of the most engaging progressive ways. So no alternative or indie filmmaking believe that viewers should see just be spoon-fed. There should be participations.

**Is this the first of many similar projects or a one-time deal?**

Many wanted to participate. Some are already asking about "Imahe Nasyon 2." This is really hard work. It's hard to deal with different moods, artistic sides, disciplines of filmmakers. But I'm not complaining; the hardship is part of it all. We just need to rest first. We want "Imahe Nasyon" to be seen by as many people as possible.

JOHN SEE: "It's not some idea, just the first one that pulled through."

MEDINA is another indie actor within this same movie.

# Talking-veggies cartoon sparks religious conflict

LOS ANGELES—BOB THE Tomato and Larry the Cucumber sincere had a moral message in their long-running "Veggie Tales" series, a collection of animated home videos for children that encourage moral behavior based on Christian principles. But now that the vegetable stars have hit network television, they cannot speak as freely as they once did, and their fans say the Parents Television Council is to blame.

**Insanity**

The conservative media watchdog group named a successor Wednesday blasting NBC, which airs "Veggie Tales," for airing cartoon references to God from the children's animated shows.

"What struck me and continues to strike me is the insanity of zipping the heart and soul out of a cucumber and potato and not thinking that there will be consequences to it," said L. Brent Bozell, president of the Parents Television Council. "The series is successful because of its biblical world view, not in spite of it."

More than 30 million copies of the series have been sold since 1992, according to Big Idea Inc., which produces the series. Two weeks ago, NBC began airing 20-minute episodes on Saturday mornings—but edited to comply with the network's broadcast standards, said NBC spokesperson Rebecca Marks.

"Our goal is to reach as broad an audience as possible with these positive messages while being careful not to advocate any one religious point of view," she said.

"Veggie Tales" creator Phil Vischer, who was responsible for producing episodes for network broadcast, said he didn't know until last weeks before the shows were to begin airing that nondenominal references to God and the Bible would have to be removed.

"And he knows how much he would love to change the show—including Bob and Larry's tights, "Remember Bob, God made you special and he loves you very much," that concludes each episode—Vischer said he would have signed on for the network deal.

"I would have declined partly because I knew a lot of fans would feel like it was a sellout," he said, adding that "there weren't enough shows that could work well without these [religious] references."

As all programs try to air on NBC must meet the network's broadcast standards, said Alan Wurtzel, a broadcast standards exec. "Veggie Tales' was treated the same as any other program, he said.

"There's a fine line of universally acceptable references," he said. "We don't get too specific with any particular religious doctrine or any particular religious denomination."

**Cool**

Vischer said he understands the network's position.

"Veggie Tales' is religious, NBC is not," he said. "I want to focus people more on 'Isn't it cool that Bob and Larry are archivists?'"

Marks said the network is "very sensitive to the positive messages and universal values" of the show and expects "Veggie Tales" to continue airing.

But Bozell is not satisfied.

"If NBC is so concerned about that four-letter-word God, then they should not be airing 'Veggie Tales,'" he said. "This just demonstrates the disconnect between Hollywood and the real world." Sandy Cohen, AP

## Los Diamond Phillips faces 1 year in jail

LOS ANGELES—ACTOR LOU DIAMOND PHILLIPS, BEST KNOWN for his role as rocker Ritchie Valens in the movie "La Bamba," has been charged with domestic battery in a fight with his girlfriend, officials said last weekend.

Phillips faces up to one year in jail and a $2,000 fine if convicted of the misdemeanor count, which was filed on Thursday in Los Angeles. His arraignment is set for Oct. 18.

In an August dispute, Phillips is alleged to have "pushed and slugged the girlfriend's sister in the house, resulting in scrapes to both knees," City Attorney Burke Delgadillo said in a statement.

The woman locked herself in a bathroom and called 911 for help. Reuters

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# The day the laughter died

## The Filipino sitcom used to be the heart of prime time TV programming. Not anymore

By Jess Javier Reyes
Contributor

LAUGHTER IS NOT only the best medicine for Pinoys; it is a primary tool in our survival kit.

Humor keeps us afloat in typhoons; it lasts because the leftover merchandise by which we endure record-long traffic and turmoil. After all, we are the only nation in the world to have staged street revolutions that toppled a dictator and dismissed a president with humor as music—including Cristina Ford singing "Boyan Ko."

Filipinos cannot go through a single day without savoring a joke or two. Let's face it: We laugh in the slightest provocation. Due to, subtleties aside, our hardwired sense of humor, we are not entertained easily by our ability to pounce on any opportunity to hand out a silly giggle or indulge in vulgar guffaw.

Not to brag yet, the Filipino sense of humor is revered by the head of persons from international programming. Those were the days when local television boasted of a truly diverse programming. The addiction to continuing banter was limited to afternoon comedy-evening drama. Prime time television used to be loaded of variety shows, excellent drama anthologies and the best of Pinoy movies.

But that was before the coming of Dolphy of "Home Sweet Home" fame, the late Rene Requiestas, Aiko Melendez, Ai-Ai delas Alas, Eric Quizon, Dolphy, Vic Sotto, Joey de Leon, Redford White, Tito Sotto, Vic Sotto, Joey de Leon, Redford White, Tito Sotto, Vic Sotto, Joey de Leon, Redford White, Tito Sotto

"MACBETH"

# Modern-day Shakespeare on Hallmark

"BE YOU NOT OF AN AGE, BUT FOR ALL time." So said dramatist Ben Jonson of master playwright William Shakespeare.

The Hallmark Channel features Shakespeare's classics with a contemporary touch this October, with four made-for-TV movies airing Sundays at 9/8c.

### 'Much Ado About Nothing'

The opening of Shakespeare and Beaucliff in "Much Ado About Nothing" (Oct. 8) takes place in the seventeenth. Billie (a brown Beatrice Evans-Smith Bridle) and Benedick Taylor (Dominic Lavoie) are stranded on swordfight and they're the seventeenth upside down.

### 'Macbeth'

"Macbeth" (Oct. 15) is the riveting portrait of a man's fall, consumed by his greed and corruption. Read chef Joe Mantegna's (James Mathews) upscale home, professing millionaire businessman but pretend-star owner Duncan Duckworth gets killed in the pantry.

One night, three witch-like scavengers predict that Joe would one day own the restaurant.

### 'Taming of the Shrew'

Kate Mercer (Hailey Henderson) is the "shrew" in the family-of-the-series comedy "Taming of the Shrew" (Oct. 22). A bright and talented politician, Kate is being groomed for bigger things if only she were not so sassy and cranky.

The electronic prefers married and family-oriented officials so when the passionate and eccentric Petruchio (Taylor Sewell) proposes, what is the logical thing for the 30-year-old singlemom-cook-but say "no!"

### 'Midsummer Night's Dream'

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" (Oct. 29) shows Connor Kippen Theo (Bill Sherwood and Polly Dwelda Woodcock) celebrating their fifth wedding anniversary and the engagement of their daughter Hermia (Zoe Tuppen) to childhood sweetheart James at a forest theme park. But three escapes when Dmitry vanishes the party and Hermia reveals that it's Zander that she loves. Oberon, King of the fairies, resolves to cause some mischief in the town.

"TAMING of the Shrew"

"A MIDSUMMER Night's Dream"

"MUCH Ado About Nothing"

# Turning the tables on the biggest cad

IT "JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE," THE BIG man on Campus also turns out to be the biggest catch at Clover Hill.

Hunky basketball team captain John Tucker (Jesse Metcalfe) juggles three girlfriends at the same time with the wild accusations of a single-minded artist.

Until a heartbroken Kate (Brittany Snow) leaves Tucker's three victims (played by Arielle Kebbel, Ashanti and Sophia Bush) to accept the lures with this the handsome hunk they share his underpants-thieves all.

Determined to exact painful vengeance, the three victims decide to make the dreamy Kate swoon so Tucker will fall in love with her—and she can then break his heart.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor F. Torre

In the course of the misdeeds, the girls depict wards of "wisdom" about how women can keep their talent interested and excited.

They also dish out advice to endorsers Backstreet Boy reducing him into wearing a wrestling thong—and then showing him into a hotel room date for everyone to gawk and laugh at.

The play is eventful enough, and the movie is occasionally perky, but it eventually runs out of comic steam, no thanks to its young cast's predictable performances.

Entertainingly, the movie can see the script's cautionary denouement. Thicker gets his painful comeuppance(s) coming many minutes before it actually transpires.

By videos it's highly improbable, in effort to be funny, being delightfully benevolent.

Still, the movie has pushed up Metcalfe's status as a teen dreadful by seeing him in other "trendy" roles in Midsummer Is come—unlike his usually restless that there's no real future in this fluff like this, and quite by the movie told, starring itself in other movies like Ashton Kutcher and Kevin Phillips' romantic dud.

### 'Dead or Alive'

Another current film, "Dead or Alive" is the video game and fantasy martial arts film only to this plot provides less than a wafty dilutive plot to hold a competition for the top fighters in the world—we find he can siphon off their superhuman moves from other opponent's history to bolster our own's of the globe.

Don't bother to analyze the logic of that plot, it's simply a handy peg on which the production can hang its, for-our-fight scenes, which are decidedly more entertaining than the rest.

Strangely enough, many of the fight title's finalists are women, and they're only on top of being adept with their fists and legs.

Even more curiously, they also love fighting while dressed in sexy bikinis, in the movie's fight sequences (no necessary or explained).

Hell, it's all for naught, we don't believe the unbelievable kicks and chicks. Anyway, at film's end, the villain's dastardly plot goes pffft, the good guys and gals end up on top, and all's well with the fantasy world of martial arts games.

### The Company

The popular vocal group, The Company, has recorded its first Christmas album. It will be launched with a special performance at 7 p.m. on Oct. 8 at the Shangri-la Mall.

"The Christmas Album" presents Yuletide standards in an assortment of settings, forms, moods and techniques—the unique Company way.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Kythe Foundation for the benefit of children with cancer and other chronic illness. Call Kythe at 776-1484.

### Justin Timberlake

Justin Timberlake has a new album, "FutureSex/LoveSounds," and hit single, "Sexy Back," is set to become a summer hit.

Catch Justin on Channel [illegible] this month as he takes the limelight as the dramatic character in...